

Black Alumni

Network NEWSLETTER | Our 24th Year | JAN 2004 | Vol. 24 No. 1

PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings

R. David Addams, '80, was named the ACLU's first director of Affiliate Diversity and Management Services. In this position, Addams will promote the organization's commitment to diversity and assist the 53 ACLU affiliates with human resources, administration and financial and legal program management. Addams is deputy director of the New York Civil Liberties Union. Before that he was vice president of the New York Urban League. Addams joins the Affiliate Support Department on Jan. 1, 2004. Send e-mail to daddams@nycclu.org.

Get well wishes to **Lise C. White, '80**: I had a discectomy to repair a herniated cervical disk on Monday [Dec. 22]," she wrote. "I came home Tuesday afternoon and I'm glad to be home for the holidays. "I'll be in a brace for at least two weeks to restrict neck movements. I was quite scared going in, but I was quite relieved when I came out from under the anesthesia. It was immediately obviously that the surgery was a success. White lives in Virginia Beach, Va. and can be reached at beachpixie@aol.com.

Get More (Peace, Love, Courage, Sanity) in '04! urged editor **Esther Iverem, '83**. Check out her online culture and entertainment report, www.seeinblack.com

'88 grad injured In Baghdad blast

Los Angeles Times foreign correspondent **Ann Simmons, '88**, was among the injured when a New Years Eve bomb blast in Baghdad at a restaurant killed at least eight people and injured three dozen others.

According to the Times and wire service reports, Simmons was traveling in one of three cars with Times colleagues when the blast occurred. She was treated for cuts at a hospital then released.

Simmons won a 2000 NABJ Salute to Excellence Award for international reporting from Africa. At that time she was Nairobi bureau chief. She was a 2002 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

2003: Regrets and things we'd rather forget

By Cheryl Devall

This was a year of wars, SARS and fallen stars.

First, and overwhelmingly, the wars. Even with the mid-December capture of toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, alive and in hiding eight months after bombing began, a U.S.-led war in Iraq that dominated this year's headlines looked far from over. Despite massive demonstrations for peace domestically and abroad, a coalition moved into Iraq in March to flush out suspected weapons of mass destruction.

(Continued on page 2)



Wayne Dawkins
Commentary

Farewell to our Brother Ben

"Colorful" is an adjective routinely associated with Ben Johnson, a respected journalist at a number of leading newspapers, who died tragically last week at age 53. A utility crew in Huntsville, Ala. found Johnson's body behind a tree Monday, dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, police reported.

Johnson's larger-than-life persona was well known inside the National Association of Black Journalists in the 1980s and early 1990s. It was impossible to be indifferent about him; you either found Johnson endearing or inappropriate. I believe it is reasonable however to say that black journalists on both sides of that divide agreed that Ben Johnson spoke and acted courageously for improving the lives of blacks in the news business.

Johnson ran for NABJ president in 1981 in what was the first openly competitive election. "I was the first to campaign," Johnson told me in 1991. "I started the sloganeering and campaign materials." Before 1981, presidents were practically handpicked instead of elected by secret ballot.

Johnson was beaten handily (Continued on page 3)

2003

(Continued from page 1)

In the months since forces were sent to "shock and awe" the Iraqi people into compliance, resistance fighters have killed more occupation forces — at this writing the number neared 200 — than during the active combat phase of the war. The casualty count also included relief workers and United Nations envoys, Japanese diplomats, British, Italian and Spanish coalition partners and no small number of Iraqis.

Mainstream journalism coined a new term — "embedded" — to describe the reporters and photographers who deployed with troops to cover one side of the war.

Two years after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 provoked President Bush to declare a war on terrorism, most Americans continued to believe—falsely — that Saddam Hussein was somehow to blame.

Meanwhile, Osama bin Laden remained at large and the disaffected invoked al-Qaida to justify bombings from Indonesia to Istanbul. Analysis of the Iraq war and occupation are sure to flavor the accelerating race to the White House in 2004.

Conflicts raged in Uganda, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone, where civil wars of varying duration couldn't quite stagger to an end. Violence played out in suicide bombings and retaliatory raids between Israelis and Palestinians as one side set about constructing walls and the other dispatched young women and men to strap on and detonate explosives in public places.

Diseases, mysterious and familiar

Diseases of mysterious origin arose, paralyzing economies and daily life from Beijing to Toronto. Severe Acute Respiratory

Syndrome killed more than 700 people and frightened countless more into wearing masks, staying indoors, canceling travel plans. At this writing, epidemiologists feared SARS, dormant by the summer months, might re-surface before long.

More familiar maladies — AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria — robbed the young and hopeful of their most productive years, especially in Africa and the poorer districts of the Americas. By early December, the U.N. recorded 3 million AIDS deaths worldwide this year; a record 5 million people in the same period were infected with the virus that causes AIDS. Only toward the end of this year did South Africa, with one of the highest per capita HIV-positive rates in the world, approve a five-year plan to distribute anti-retroviral drugs throughout the country.

In the United States a particularly virulent flu strained supplies of vaccine and killed at least 20 children by mid-December.

Many falling stars

The stars who fell were many. Among journalists, there was New York Times reporter **Jayson Blair**, who happened to be young, black and gifted in the art of fabrication, and **Gerald Boyd** and **Howell Raines**, the managing editor and executive editor who had presided over Blair's upward trajectory.

Los Angeles Lakers star **Kobe Bryant**, accused of an opportunistic sexual act with a young woman who visited his room at a Colorado resort, is facing trial next spring.

King of Pop **Michael Jackson** had already fallen pretty far when, in October, a young visitor to his Neverland Ranch accused him of lewd and lascivious acts. A media mosh pit of O.J. Simpson-trial proportions threatens to track every development in that case.

Seven astronauts, including payload commander **William Anderson**, died mere moments from landing when the space

shuttle Columbia exploded in February.

Bay Area TV journalist **Faith Fancher**, 53, who spent the last years of her life promoting breast cancer awareness and treatment, died in October. **Hal Walker**, 70, one of the first black correspondents in network television news, died in November.

A Virginia jury recommended death for one of last year's most bizarre newsmakers, **John Allan Muhammad**. He'd frightened the inhabitants of two states and the District of Columbia in a random shooting spree during October 2002. The trial of Muhammad's alleged accomplice, **Lee Malvo**, continued into December.

During those proceedings another series of anonymous sniper shootings played out in Ohio.

Also there, in Cincinnati, another videotaped police beating sparked outrage after the black man at the receiving end of the nightsticks died.

The staffs of three magazines aimed at black readers — **Heart** and **Soul**, **Savoy** and **Honey** — got an unexpected Thanksgiving surprise when parent company Vanguard Media declared bankruptcy. Chief executive **Keith Clinkscales** said it had become impossible to continue operating in a dismal advertising climate. The move put 70 employees out of work.

NABJ responded quickly; many of its members had written for Vanguard publications. "With so few voices for and by African-Americans, the closure... is another tragic loss for the magazine industry and black journalists nationwide," said Bryan Monroe, NABJ vice president-print and assistant vice president for news at Knight Ridder.

A new forum for black media voices — **TV One**, a cable network intended to compete with BET — is scheduled to launch Jan. 19. The network, a partnership between Comcast and black-
(Continued on page 4)

Cheryl Devall is an editor at public radio's Marketplace.

Farewell

(Continued from page 1)

by a 6-1 ratio by Les Payne, who went on to become the association's fourth president. "I got 20 votes," Johnson told me a decade after that defeat. "I was devastated and hurt that I lost." Johnson became president of the Detroit affiliate chapter, and he was co-organizer of the 1982 Detroit convention.

During a nearly 30-year newspaper career, Johnson was a reporter or editor with the Detroit Free Press, Washington Post, St. Petersburg Times, Chicago Sun-Times, Louisville Courier-Journal, Louisville Defender and Gary, Ind. Post-Tribune.

Colleagues fondly recalled Johnson's generosity. "When I got to the Detroit Free Press in 1981, Ben and his wife, Esther, took me and my son in like family," said Jackie Jones, who now teaches at Penn State University.

In 1988 with his wife Mary Bullard-Johnson they published, "Who's What and Where," a 735-page directory and reference book on America's minority journalists. In the early 1990s Ben Johnson and his wife Mary published Multicultural Link, a monthly media diversity journal.

"To say Ben was a character is an understatement. He always had me cracking up laughing whenever we got a chance to talk," said Roland S. Martin, a syndicated columnist.

Johnson became managing editor of the Columbia, Mo. Missourian. He was also the first director of the Multicultural Management Program at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. During the late 1990s he worked at the Huntsville Times and in later years wrote opinion columns.

At the time of his death, Johnson was host of the WEUP-AM 1600 "Just Talking" radio show in Huntsville.
(This story is reprinted from BlackJournalist.com)

Books by J-alumni

If you're looking for new titles to add to your reading list, alumni who have written books in last year. Topics stretch wide from fiction to current events and other stories about the Diaspora, to self-help. Here's a sample of what's out there:

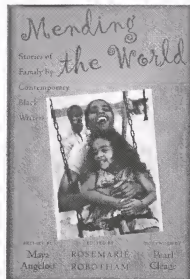
Non-Fiction

• "Africans in the Americas, Volume 1: The Caribbean, has 15 essays by various writers, including three pieces by **Betty Winston Baye, '80**. Published this fall by the Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies, \$24.95. Illustrated.

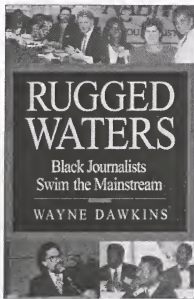


• "Mandela, Mobutu and Me," by **Lynne Duke, '86**, is an account of the devastation Mobutu Sese Seko and Laurent Kabila left on Congo/Zaire after their dictatorships and the positive leadership of Nelson Mandela on the region. January 2003, Doubleday, \$24.

• "The Hearts of Darkness: How White Writers Created the Racist Image of Africa," by **Milton Allimadi, '92**, contends that top news organizations were frequent accomplices and apologists for negative stereotypes of Africa. Winter 2003, Black Star Books, \$12.



• "Mending the World: Stories of Family by Contemporary Black Writers," is an anthology edited by **Rosemarie Robotham, '80**. December 2002, Basic Civitas Books, \$25.



• "Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream," by **Wayne Dawkins, '80**, covers the rise of the National Association of Black Journalists as an industry player in the early '90s and malaise at the end of that decade that must be overcome in the new century. July 2003, August Press, \$15.95.

(Continued on page 4)

2003

Continued from page 2)

owned Radio One, plans to target its programming to African-Americans aged 24 to 54. Its leadership roster includes Radio One president **Alfred C. Liggins III**, former Discovery Networks and CBS executive **Jonathan Rodgers** and actor and producer **Tim Reid**.

In a turbulent year, October offered one more reason to smile: For the first time, black artists from **Beyonce** to **Nelly** to **50 Cent**, occupied every slot in the Billboard Top 10.

Books

(Continued from page 3)
Fiction



• "Sexual Healing," by **Jill Nelson**, '80, is a novel that explains what happens when two women in California open a brothel for "sistahs" in Nevada.

Spring 2003, Agate, \$23.95

• "The Hatweaver's Lesson," by **Yolanda Joe**, '85, is a novel about a high-powered Chicago lawyer who in matters of the heart relies on the wisdom of her grandmother in Arkansas. March 2003, Dutton, \$23.95.



• "Miracle at St. Anna," by **James McBride**, '80, is a novel about the Buffalo soldiers of World War II. February 2003, Riverhead Books, \$14.

• "Chill Wind," by **Janet McDonald**, '84, is a young adult novel about a pregnant, 19-year-old who must make some tough choices. July 2003, Thorndike Press, \$24.95.

• "Always True to You in My Fashion," by **Valerie Wilson Wesley**, '82, is a novel that peeks deep inside the insular New York arts community. November 2002, William Morrow, \$23.95.

Black Alumni Network

Welcome to the Black Alumni Network of Columbia University.

The network was founded in May 1980 by members of that graduating class and since July 1980 the group has published a monthly newsletter. It is received by 400 alumni and friends in the journalism industry. Readers pay for the newsletter through subscriptions, \$20 a year or \$38 for two years.

The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.

Log on to our Web site at <http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/asociations/ban/index.asp> or see our link on the homepage of www.BlackJournalist.com

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PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings

Ann Simmons, injured in Iraq, now recovering

Los Angeles Times foreign correspondent **Ann Simmons**, '88, is back in California, reported colleague **Gayle Pollard-Terry**, '73 late last month.

Simmons was among the injured when a New Year's Eve bomb in Baghdad at a restaurant killed at least eight people and injured three dozen others. Simmons went home to London and stayed with her family to heal from facial cuts and an eye infection, according to the LA Times foreign editor.

Pollard-Terry told the NABJ online community that Simmons' sisters came to America from London to help her move into her new home.

Simmons, former Johannesburg and Nairobi bureau chief of the Times, is expected to be back in the newsroom shortly.

Free-lance writer **Andrea Payne**, '81, will be giving the message at Unity East Church Center at the 11 am service on Sunday, Feb. 15.

"I am so excited," she told friends and colleagues in an e-mail. "Although I have given one other sermon at Interfaith (Continued on page two)

Boyd appointment to J-School post gets criticized

Some faculty members at the Columbia University School of Journalism are criticizing the appointment of Gerald Boyd, former N.Y. Times managing editor, to the newly created position of director of case studies.

An article in the university's daily newspaper, The Columbia



Photo by Leah Jones

Lemann. One such critic is associate professor Sandford Padwe.

"The school here is, in my mind, ethics-based. And the whole debate about Jayson Blair involved ethics and I don't know exactly what Gerald Boyd's connection to that was," said Padwe, a former N.Y. Times deputy sports editor and former acting dean of the J-School. (Continued on page two)

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**Wayne
Dawkins**
Commentary

History comes alive

Let me tell you about two obscure yet important Black History journalism moments that came to light last month because of news events.

First, in the first week of New Year, actress, singer and later in life civic leader Etta Moten Barnett, 102, died in Chicago. Many news accounts underplayed or missed the significant journalism connection of her late husband, Claude Barnett, creator of the Associated Negro Press that serviced black weekly newspapers more than a half-century ago.

In 1995, I interviewed Mrs. Barnett and this excerpt appeared in that year's February NABJ Journal:

"... Associated Negro Press lasted more than four decades. Barnett's widow, Etta Moten Barnett, 92, a former concert singer and actress, said her husband closed the service in 1965, but 'kept going to the office and was writing his memoirs.' Claude Barnett died two years later at age 73.

"Before his death, Barnett offered ANP to the Black Press of America and the National Newspaper Publishers Association. The trade organization, wrote [author Enoch] Waters, declined. (Continued on page three)

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The network was founded in May 1980 by members of that graduating class and since July 1980 the group has published a monthly newsletter. It is received by 400 alumni and friends in the journalism industry. Readers pay for the newsletter through subscriptions, \$20 a year or \$38 for two years.

The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.

Log on to our Web site at <http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/associations/ban/index.asp> or see our link on the homepage of www.BlackJournalist.com

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'Rugged Waters' receives top book nomination

"Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream" by Wayne Dawkins has been nominated in the non-fiction category for the 7th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards.

Rugged Waters is a history of the National Association of Black Journalists and its members' triumphs and challenges in the 1990s.

Dawkins of Newport News also wrote books on the early history of the association in 1993 and 1997. The author, a newspaperman for 23 years in Hampton Roads, Va., Indiana, New Jersey and New York, is now managing editor of BlackAmericaWeb.com and contributing editor with BlackJournalist.com.

The Library of Virginia Literary Awards honor Virginia authors, their publishers, and their literary contributions. The 7th annual celebration will be held this fall. Visit www.lva.lib.va.us for more information.

People

(Continued from page one)

Fellowship, this is very special to me since it's my home church. The title of my talk is 'Let God love you.' All are invited to attend."

Unity East Church Center is located at 1901 Beverly Road, Brooklyn, N.Y. Call 718-287-4700. Take Q train to Beverly Road, walk three or four blocks toward Flatbush Avenue. The church is on the corner.

Robert David Addams, '80, told us that U.S. Civil Rights chairwoman, Mary Berry, endorsed presidential candidate Gen. Wesley Clark, knowing that Clark worked to protect the human rights of all

human beings, as he showed in Kosovo, and saving over one million human beings in the ethnic cleansing war.

Addams, director of affiliate diversity and management services for the ACLU, said The Native American Times endorsed the general, mainly because he was the negotiator and enforcer of treaties for NATO which all indigenous people regard highly, since nearly 3,000-3,500 treaties have been broken by the U.S. government in the past 500 years.

Boyd

(Continued from page one)

Though Boyd was hired as an administrator at the discretion of the school's dean, Padwe said faculty should have been consulted. "There was no discussion, and even though it was an administrative appointment, my feeling is that there are times when faculty should be asked, especially on something that impacts the classroom," Padwe said.

But Lemann says Boyd was the best qualified person for the position. "Gerald was by far the best candidate, especially in level of interest," Lemann said in the article. Other faculty members expressed support for the appointment.

"Gerald Boyd is an enormously talented writer and reporter," David Klatell, academic dean at the J-School, wrote in an e-mail. "There is no doubt that his professional career, with its successes and setbacks (which are hardly atypical in the world of journalism), gives him a breadth of experience that will inform the cases he prepares. He has faced some of the most complex and difficult decisions the journalism profession offers, and brings, therefore, valuable insights to the task."

This article originally appeared on BlackJournalist.com and was written by Ken Smikle

History

(Continued from page one)

What I did not write then was an informed source on the history of the black press told me the petty jealousy apparently motivated a number of the black publishers to dis Barnett and harm their enterprises. I've looked for but could not find photos of Etta Moten Barnett during her performing days, but I was told that she was a knockout. Think Dorothy Dandridge and Lena Horne.

The old black men didn't like Mr. Barnett because he had a stunning spouse and unfortunately, they forgot that business mattered more, Barnett's news service was a resource that could have made their papers stronger, had they made use of it.

The second journalism moment had a connection to the new movie, "Cold Mountain," a Civil War epic starring Nicole Kidman, Rene Zellweger and Jude Law.

An e-mail from an angry black male writer orbited the Internet, expressing outrage that the movie, based on a historical novel, downplayed slavery and specifically, during a dramatic battle scene, ignored the historical fact that a black Union regiment was sent into the breach and fought valiantly.

The angry author called for a boycott of the movie. That sparked a lot of chatter. Did it make sense to boycott a film without judging the content? And was it sensible to knock a film that appeared to be a love story based on Homer's "Odyssey" rather than a war drama?

Since the movie raised an interesting debate about the presence of black soldiers at a significant battle in Petersburg, Va., a historical fact was a black journalist covered the action. Dispatches by Thomas Morris Chester of Philadelphia Press were published in a 1989 biography, "Black Civil War Correspondent" [DeCapo

Press]. Check out Chapter 3, "Encircling Richmond and Petersburg."

There are other intriguing people and facts regarding blacks and media that deserve wider exposure and recognition. We should dig them out and show the public.

JOBLINE

The Boston Globe and the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) will host a regional job fair on Friday, Feb. 20, at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston. "Diversity at Work: Connecting Journalists to Jobs" is designed to bring together recruiters from the print, television and radio industry with journalists of color. Experienced journalists will also be on site to offer job seekers advice on news articles and broadcast tapes, and experts will provide insight on resume preparation. Attendees will have the opportunity to schedule interviews with recruiters from national and regional newspapers, news media companies, wire services, or TV and radio stations, based on experience and interests.

Scheduled interviews will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and there will be an open interview session from 3 to 5 p.m. Job seekers are encouraged to bring their three best work samples and 15 copies of their resume. Business attire is suggested. Candidates interested in attending the job fair should register by Feb. 3, 2004. To pre-register, visit www.bostonglobe.com/diversityjo bfair.

For more information about attending the event, contact Donna Bains at dbains@globe.com.

Move BEYOND basic computer-assisted reporting and use statistical analysis in your work? **Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE)** has secured Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists

Steve Doig, interim director of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University, and Sarah Cohen, database editor of The Washington Post, to teach a three-day session at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz., Friday through Sunday, Feb. 13-15. Register now to attend the Advanced CAR Statistics Workshop and return to your newsroom ready to craft statistics into stories that count! This workshop is aimed at strengthening the skills of reporters who are familiar with basic computer-assisted reporting and want to add statistical analysis to their toolkits. For more information and to register, go to: www.ire.org/training/arizonastats.html

Questions? Contact Jennifer Erickson at IRE and NICAR: 573-884-2222 or jennifer@ire.org.

The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) seeks a new president following David Anable's decision to retire this summer after leading the Center for seven years. "We look forward to finding a superb new leader for ICFJ to build on the excellent work done by David and his predecessors," said Center chairman, Jim Hoge. "ICFJ provides essential training in all forms of journalism and media management throughout much of the developing world and elsewhere, and finding just the right person to preside over the Center's continued growth and value is very important to us and to the journalists we serve around the globe." Since its founding in 1984, the Center has trained thousands of journalists and managers from more than 170 countries. It has grown from a two-person office in Reston, Va., to a major international training institute based in Washington, D.C., with a staff of more than 30. It brings hundreds of overseas journalists to the United States, and it dispatches Knight International Press Fellows, as well as its other trainers and

faculty, all across the globe -- from Botswana to Brazil, from Cambodia to Kazakhstan. Hoge described the Center's ideal new president as an individual with vision as well as administrative skill, a leader of stature in the world of journalism, with international experience and with some knowledge of teaching and/or training. Applications or inquiries should be addressed to: The President Search Committee, International Center for Journalists, 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. E-mail: president@icjf.org. Mailto:president@icjf.org

The Charlotte Observer is looking for a theater writer to cover the people and productions in Charlotte's thriving theater community. We're looking for an aggressive journalist who wants to have fun and take a fresh approach to covering performing arts. We're looking for original ideas for breaking news, previews, criticism, overnight reviews and more. We're looking for a writer with a vision for theater coverage who is a collaborator, able to share ideas with editors, photographers and page designers to help conceptualize those ideas for creative presentations. The theater writer reports to the arts editor, and is part of a 12-person arts and entertainment team. Five years daily newspaper experience preferred. Send resume, bio and clips to: Nicole Johnson McGill,

Arts Editor, The Charlotte Observer, 600 S. Tryon St., P.O. Box 30308, Charlotte, NC 28230.

The Spartanburg, S.C. Herald-Journal, a New York Times newspaper, is looking for someone with strong design and news skills who can help us produce compelling visual presentations for our news and feature sections. Candidates should be familiar with QuarkXPress. We are an award-winning newspaper in western South Carolina, within driving distance of the mountains and the beach. Excellent benefits. E-mail News Editor Gloria Fair at gloria.fair@shj.com

The Longview, Texas News-Journal, a Cox newspaper, has these openings:
BUSINESS EDITOR. Our business editor has been promoted to managing editor at another Cox newspaper. We are seeking a skillful writer and leader to cover a diverse and growing economy. The person who fills this spot will produce daily stories and a Sunday section that includes a biz column. Our business reporting and business sections are at the top of our readers' rankings. Send clips and resume to Ana Pecina Walker, editor, Longview News-Journal, 320 E. Methvin, Longview, Texas 75601. Telephone (903) 232-7225. E-mail: awalker@coxnews.com

STAFF WRITER. We are seeking high energy writers, both experienced and entry level, who are able to cover a variety of beats and are skilled at news reporting as well as writing features. You would work with experienced writers and editors as well as those who are newer to the business. Our award-winning reporting team is well-versed in teamwork and used to tackling tough issues as well as writing about the people in our coverage area of 11 counties in Northeast Texas. Send clips and resume to Ana Pecina Walker, Editor, Longview News-Journal, 320 E. Methvin, Longview, Texas 75601. Telephone (903) 232-7225. E-mail: awalker@coxnews.com

LIFESTYLE/RELIGION EDITOR/WRITER Brand new position calls for creativity and sharp editing and writing skills. Duties include overseeing features pages including a national award winning religion section plus writing for that page as well as assigning stories for feature sections. You will coordinate copy flow with city, photo and news desks. Candidates must be organized and be able to plan skillfully. Newsroom experience is required. Salary negotiable. Send clips and resume to Ana Pecina Walker, Editor, Longview News-Journal, 320 E. Methvin, Longview, Texas 75601. Telephone (903) 232-7225. E-mail: awalker@coxnews.com

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Black Alumni

Network Newsletter /Our 24th year/March 2004/ Vol. 24, No. 3

2004 J-Alumni Award Winners Announced

The executive committee of the Columbia University Journalism Alumni Association selected four graduates to receive alumni awards in April. Their extraordinary accomplishments are reviewed below in brief biographical sketches. Longer biographies with photographs will shortly be made available on the J-school Web site. The awards ceremony, which includes a reception for 400, will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, April 23. No RSVP is required and all alumni are welcome to attend.

Kenneth Best, J-'67

Kenneth Best is the founder and editor-in-chief of West Africa's first independent newspaper, the Daily Observer, in Monrovia, Liberia. He was arrested five times under the Doe regime and the Daily Observer office was burned down. After stints in exile in Gambia and the United States, Kenneth is preparing to return to Liberia to once again publish the Daily Observer. Best is winner of a National Association of Black Journalists Percy Qoboza award for international reporting.

Michele Montas-Dominique, J-'69

For 20 years Michele Montas-Dominique was news director and co-anchor of Haiti's leading radio station. After the assassination of her husband in 2000 and threats made against her own life Michele came to the United States. The recipient of a 2002 Maria Moors Cabot Prize, Michele is currently spokeswoman for the president of the United Nations General Assembly.

Rita Henly Jensen, J-'77

Rita Henly Jensen is founder and editor-in-chief of Women's eNews, a news service that uses new technology to disseminate stories of critical interest to women. She put Women's eNews online in 2000, and the site now has expanded to include an Arabic language service reaching an audience across North Africa and the Middle East.

Lewis Simons, J '64

Lew Simons, a contributor to National Geographic magazine, is the recipient of journalism's most prestigious prizes, including the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting and the 1985 George Polk Award for International Reporting. He is a former reporter for Time, the Washington Post and the Associated Press.

Alumni Medal to Dawkins*

Wayne Dawkins, '80, was chosen to receive the Columbia University Alumni Federation Medal for Conspicuous Alumni Service.

Each year at the Commencement Day Luncheon a select group of 10 individuals receive medals. Dawkins is founding editor of the Black Alumni Network newsletter for Columbia journalism alumni [1980-] and he is a member of the Journalism Alumni executive committee.

Executive Committee President Donald "Pete" Johnston said Dawkins is the fifth journalism alumnus to win a medal in five successive years; previous winners were Judith Christ, Eve Mayer, Edward Silberfarb and Donald Johnston. This year's ceremony is May 19.

People

Toni Randolph, '88, who left WBUR-FM Boston for similar work in Minneapolis, says "Things are going well here. I'm liking my job quite a bit. And I think it's liking me too. And Minneapolis is a pretty cool place to be. It's very isolated, geographically, from the rest of the country (the East Coast especially, and even Chicago is a good ways away). But there's a lot going on here. The Twin Cities are on top of things when it comes to music, theater, sports, etc. All of the big tours come here. The NHL All-Star game was just here. Sometimes it seems like there's so much going on that I can't keep up. I like that.

Bechetta Jackson, '96, left the Fort Worth Star-Telegram to teach fourth grade at Como Elementary School in that city. She's busy with education-related work but hopes to return to free-lance writing.

Lisa Rhodes, '88, is a contract writer with Patuxent Publishing Inc. [Tribune Co.] newspaper Sound Off! Which covers the Fort Meade, Md. Army post. Rhodes can be reached at Libran@peoplepc.com.

Betty Winston Baye, '80, will be a speaker at the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship and Conference program in Washington D.C. on March 23. The program brings to Washington, D.C. 102 top high school senior journalism students (a boy and girl from every state and the District of Columbia). The students are selected based on their commitment to pursuing a journalism career, their journalistic abilities and their free-spirited personalities. The student are in D.C. for several days to attend sessions with media professionals and other prominent, free-spirited speakers. Additionally, they each receive a \$1,000 college scholarship. Baye is an editorial writer and columnist with The Courier-Journal of Louisville, Ky.

Gerald Bishop, '83, told us he is living in the Newark, N.J. area. The former newspaperman [New London, Ct. Day] worked with a church-based non-profit homebuilder, then started another non-profit venture. He is now working on a writing project. He can be reached at Gbish123@aol.com.

On the mend

Vernon Jarrett, '82, second president of the National Association of Black Journalists [1977-79] was scheduled for surgery on Feb. 24 after his diagnosis of cancer of the esophagus.

Richard Prince of "Journal-isms" reported March 2 that the surgery went well and Jarrett was in intensive care at the University of Chicago Hospital.

Cards or notes may be sent to Jarrett's home address: 6901 S. Oglesby, Chicago, Ill. 60649.

Ken Smikle, '52, editor and publisher of BlackJournalist.com and Target Market News, was hospitalized at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Smikle told BlackJournalist.com contributing editor Wayne Dawkins that he had a heart attack 30 minutes into a flight from the San Francisco Bay area to his home in Chicago the weekend of Feb. 28-29.

Smikle was expected to remain at the hospital through Thursday, March 4. Friends can send an electronic postcard by visiting www.nmh.org or write to 251 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Wayne Dawkins/Commentary

New tools mean new rules

New tools have changed the toolkit reporters must carry to cover live events. I noticed this difference at the end of January when I supervised a two-correspondent team in Columbia, S.C. at a presidential candidate forum and college rally.

The old rules were these: Bring extra pens – ink, felt tip, even pencils. Know where the pay phones are in the building, and keep ample pocket change. Also know where the restroom is. That advice from old pros, circa 1980, averted discomfort and inconvenience when reporting and filing on deadline.

Here's my revised advice 24 years later: Make sure your cell phone is always adequately charged. And make sure the hotel or building where you are working has right outlets in order to plug in your laptop and file stories over the Internet.

At Columbia J-school, my class probably was the last to use manual typewriters exclusively. Now I work in a "virtual newsroom" for BlackAmericaWeb.com.

In South Carolina, before unpacking, I plugged my laptop into my hotel room telephone jack and configured local access numbers for an Internet connection. My setup was handy the next day because one of my writers had his laptop but it did not have an Internet connection. He filed his live story from my room.

That same day I endured slightly anxious moments when I could not get my other writer on his cell phone. He turned his off at key moments during the day to save battery power. While on the road I use two chargers; one refreshes my phone in the hotel, and a car charger keeps my phone juiced while I drive.

We filed three pre-primary stories from Columbia, S.C. I hit the road the next morning for my next off-site adventure, a quaint Midtown Manhattan hotel room. Once again I made sure I was plugged in order to get the job done.

Picture this

Thanks to classmate Lise Chandler White for finding a Web site that had pictures of Etta Moten Barnett during her prime as an actress. The wife of Negro Associated Press creator Claude Barnett died in January at age 102 and I wrote an appreciation last month. Professor Phyl Garland called and told me that she met Mrs. Barnett many years ago in Chicago. Barnett, said Garland, was beautiful, talented and nurturing. Visit www.thehistorymakers.com/historymakers/biography/photo_window.asp?image=1021411551.jpg

Blair's back

Saturday, March 6 was the embargo date for review and consumer copies of "Burning Down My Master's House," Jayson Blair's memoir. Yet some of the book contents became public on Feb. 27 in the New York Times, Daily News and USA Today.

Did an enterprising reporter get a leaked copy? No, according the last line of the Times story, a newsroom clerk simply ordered the book from amazon.com. "Burning" has been listed on the Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com sites for several weeks with instruction that said "not available until March 6."

What are some revelations from Blair's book? "I lied and I lied, and then I lied some more," wrote the disgraced former New York Times reporter in the first chapter.

Blair chats up his book March 5 on NBC "Dateline."

Jobline

WDIV-TV, Detroit has these openings:

1. Associate producer (part-time). Contact Christopher Gilks, senior executive producer
2. **General assignment reporter**. Contact Deborah Collura, news director
3. **Television maintenance engineer**. Contact Marcus Williams, chief engineer
4. **Reporter/weekend anchor**. Contact Deborah Collura, news director

More information can be found at www.clickondetroit.com/jobconnection. Or write to 550 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226.

The Asbury Park Press in New Jersey has these job openings:

- 1) **Metro reporter** to cover a municipal beat.
- 2) **Assistant metro editor**, to direct a team of municipal reporters.

Contact for both positions is executive editor William "Skip" Hilday -- 732-643-4210, e-mail shidlay@app.com.

The San Antonio Express-News seeks a **senior education writer** (above Reporter III).

The position requires a proven track record of not only daily writing but also excellent project writing/reporting skills. The beats are based more on issues than school districts. Contact June Wormsley, education editor, San Antonio Express-News. E-mailto: jwormsley@express-news.net, or call (210) 250-3259

The Albuquerque Tribune seeks a **high school writer** with a flair for words and a hunger to chase the news. The job duties also will include coverage of the Triple-A baseball team in the spring and summer. Send resume and clips to: Mike Garcia, Tribune sports editor, P.O. Drawer T, Albuquerque, NM 87103. E-mail: mgarcia@abqtrib.com. (505) 823-3660.

AM Journal Express, a new fast-read daily in Dallas, is seeking candidates for **reporting and editing** positions. News veterans with major market experience are encouraged to apply. Fun work environment, great benefits and cutting edge journalism make this a rare opportunity for a versatile team player. Send resume, clips and salary expectations to: news@amjournalexpress.com. No phone calls please.

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Spring Meeting at Columbia

Journalism Alumni Weekend Schedule of Events

Alumni drinks, Thursday, April 22, 6-9 p.m. with Dean Nicholas Lemann at the West End on Broadway between 113th and 114th streets. Meet in the back room that has been a Journalism School staple for more than seven decades. Cash bar.

Alumni Book Fair, Friday, April 23, 4-10 p.m., Rotunda of Low Library. Books published by alumni authors during 2003/04 will be on display and for sale. Cashiers from Columbia Bookstore accept cash and credit cards.

Alumni Awards and Spring Meeting, Friday, April 23, 6-10 p.m. in Low Library's Faculty Room. Kenneth Best, J-'67, Michele Montas-Dominique, J-'69, Rita Henley Jensen, J-'77 and Lewis Simons, J-'64 are this years award winners.

A reception follows in The Rotunda. During the reception, alumni authors will be available to autograph their books. Authors include Cora Daniels, J-'96 ["Black Power Inc.: The New Voice of Success"]; Wayne Dawkins, J-'80 ["Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream"]; Woody Klein, J-'52 ["Toward Humanity and Justice: The Writings of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, Scholar of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Decision"]; Persia Walker, J-'82, "Harlem Redux."

Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, April 23, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Miller Theatre, Broadway at 116th Street, to discuss "Covering the war on terror." Howard Fineman, J-'73, political correspondent for Newsweek and NBC news analyst, will moderate.

Alumni Reunions, Saturday, April 23, after 6 p.m.: The classes of 1954, 1959, 1979, 1989 and 1994 have planned socials, cocktail parties and parties. Visit jrn.columbia.edu to get the e-mail contact address.

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**Wayne
Dawkins**
Commentary

Nancy Q. Keefe, 69, edited with passion and compassion

Nancy Q. Keefe introduced me to daily newspaper work. She hired me in May 1980 to cover the cop beat at the former The Daily Argus of Mount Vernon, N.Y. [later consolidated into the Journal News of Westchester and Rockland, N.Y.]

Keefe, 69, died March 10 of breast cancer. An appreciation in the March 12 Journal News said she battled the disease for at least 15 years. The native of Pittsfield, Mass. was a 1958 Columbia University J-School graduate.

I associate her name with feistiness. She was a small woman in size, barely 5 feet, but Keefe was larger than life in personality. Her stare could burn right through you, whether the intensity in her eyes was driven by teaching us to become good reporters and writers or the heat was from her passion for justice and truth telling.

Jayson Blair needed an editor like Keefe. She would have scared him straight.

She had zero tolerance for phonies and liars, and she demanded excellence from her charges. Keefe yelled at me if my copy did not follow AP style or if my writing was muddled. She edited copy at a desk that had a storefront-window view of people moving along Gramatan Avenue, the city's main street.

Betty Winston Baye, who Keefe hired five months after me to cover housing and development, recalled our editor storming across the newsroom to inform her that "irregardless" was improper usage. Don't write that word again.

Betty and I like to recall those Nancy moments because they are fond reminders of her teaching us to be better writers. Keefe introduced me to the writing of columnists Mary McGrory and Mike Royko.

Keefe without question was politically incorrect; she was prone to say something off-color from time to time. Yet her honesty and conviction earned passes from me.

Keefe was a devout Catholic, but that did not stop her from challenging church authorities in her column.

Keefe defended the underdogs of society, which often meant needling political leaders to do their best. "She was a very tough person, and she was very tough on me," former Gov. Mario Cuomo told the Journal News. "She certainly didn't pull any punches, and I felt them. All of them were honest and, regretably, correct."

Continued on next page

Nancy Q. Keefe/Continued

I have this keepsake: The pink "While you were out" telephone message pad note I received weeks before graduation from J-school that said Nancy Keefe wanted to talk to me about a job opening at her paper.

She was the right person to introduce me to daily newspaper work because of her passion, compassion, humor and steely determination.

Jobline

The NewsHour [PBS] seeks a **Desk Assistant** (DA) position is part of a six-month, entry-level program aimed at providing practical experience in a broadcast news setting. DAs are exposed to all aspects involved in producing a nightly television news program. The position is divided into rotations among the different units that compose the NewsHour. DAs also act as support staff for senior producers, associate producers, reporters and production assistants. **Application deadline: May 7.** Six-month position starts July. 6. **To apply:** Download an application as either a [Microsoft Word document](#) or a [PDF](#). Or request an application by contacting the NewsHour's desk assistant coordinator either by sending an e-mail to mmelia@newshour.org, or calling 703-998-2150. Or send a letter to: Michael Melia, Desk Assistant Coordinator, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* 3620 S. 27th St., Arlington, VA 22206. ... The Radio and Television News Directors Foundation Broadcast News Management Fellowship program will send 10 journalists of color to selected leadership and **management training** programs for news professionals during 2004. The RTNDF fellowship program will allow senior broadcast news and mid-career professionals of color to develop or strengthen their management skills. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by a supervisor. Each candidate must submit an application form and a letter of recommendation from his or her supervisor. Candidates also are urged to work with the supervisor to determine what skills and training they need to advance. Fellowship winners will attend workshops on such topics as developing management competence, leadership and communication skills. Application and fellowship descriptions are attached. Available Fellowships Include;

- * RTNDA@NAB Convention 2004 – Leadership Track - April 19-21 – Las Vegas
- * Poynter Leadership Skill Building Seminar – June 2-5 – St. Petersburg, Fla.
- * RTNDF Leadership Workshop – RTNDF – July 9-10 – To Be Determined.
- * UNITY Journalists of Color Convention 2004 – August 4-8 – Washington, DC
- * RTNDF Leadership Workshop – RTNDF – September – To Be Determined.
- * Poynter Leadership Academy – October 17-22 – St. Petersburg, Fla.
- * Poynter Producing Newscasts – December 5-10 – St. Petersburg, Fla.
- * Poynter Leadership For New Leaders – December 5-10 – St. Petersburg, Fla.

Go to Web site for [application.doc](#) [Fellowship Descriptions.doc](#)

Karen Jackson-Bullitt, Manager, Education Programs Diversity and Education

Radio and Television News Directors Foundation, 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20006. Or call 202-467-5218, e-mail karenb@rtnndf.org. Check out RTNDF on the Web at www.rtnndf.org

VIBE magazine is seeking to appoint 12 undergraduates to serve for one year on the magazine's College Advisory Board, a volunteer nationwide network of campus-based **editorial stringers**. Members will serve during the 2004-05 academic year and will be asked to submit monthly reports on urban music and cultural trends in their region, focusing on hip hop and R&B. They may also be assigned to cover events, do spot reporting and interviewing, conduct polls, participate in focus groups, and contribute ideas and feedback to the editors. Students' reports will be published in VIBE Magazine Online. Members will receive free magazine subscriptions and be listed in the magazine's masthead. The College Advisory Board will be selected by competitive application. Undergraduates who will be enrolled full-time in 2004-05 are eligible. Candidates should have strong writing and interpersonal skills, knowledge of urban music and culture, a serious interest and/or experience in journalism. The application deadline is **April 15**.



People

A WVTM-13 News [NBC] of Birmingham, Ala. special produced by **Lisa Diane Cox, '92** (at left) on the 40th anniversary of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing received a regional Edward R. Murrow award by the Radio and Television News Directors Association. The special was titled "Beneath the Rubble." ... In the March/April Black Issues Book Review [bibookreview.com] **Elizabeth Atkins, '91**, wrote about the American Library Association Coretta Scott King Awards, which is celebrating its 35th year and has set a standard for African-American literature for children. **Robert Fleming, '81**, profiled Clarence Major and his 35 years as a literary maverick as a poet, novelist, painter, essayist, editor and anthologist. Major's new novel is "One Flesh," published last November. There are also book reviews by **Fleming** ["Sex Life" by A.A. Clifford], **Douglas C. Lyons, '74** ["Freedom Land" by Martin L. Marcus]

NABJ awards deadline

The National Association of Black Journalists "Salute to Excellence" awards deadline has been extended from March 31 to April 16. Download an application from www.nabj.org. Work produced during calendar year 2003 is eligible. The awards program will be held next fall.

Unity Authors Carousel

The NABJ Authors Showcase that attracted 40 authors and at least seven well-attended panels will be on hiatus until 2005. This summer at the Unity 2004 convention in Washington, an "Authors Carousel" will allow members from the four associations to do readings and book signings during the convention week Aug. 4-8. The deadline for applications is May 1. Contact Unity Authors Carousel, c/o NAHJ, 1000 National Press Bldg., 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20045.

THANK YOU, new and renewing January-February-March subscribers from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Boston; Raleigh, N.C. [2]; greater Washington, D.C. [3]; Charleston, IL; Carversville, Pa.; New Mexico; Fort Worth, Texas; Chicago and New York, N.Y.

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Crusaders for Overseas press freedom

Columbia J-school award winners express passion, commitment

By **Wayne Dawkins**

NEW YORK – Seeking a free press in the African Diaspora -- despite threats of violent death -- was the dominant theme during the Distinguished Columbia University Journalism Alumni awards program, honoring four recipients.

"Press freedom will be established in Africa," said award winner **Kenneth Best, '67**, founder of the Daily Observer of Liberia, West Africa's first independent newspaper. After a lengthy exile in the United States, Best, 65, plans to return to Liberia this year and resurrect the Observer. The week before receiving the J-school award, Best said another newspaper was firebombed while the staff was working. Fortunately no one was hurt, he said.

**Exile Best, 65, vows to
return to West Africa and
resurrect his newspaper.**

Best, a 1995 NABJ Percy Qoboza winner for outstanding international journalism, was described as "fearless" by fellow exile and journalist Cherno Jallow. Best said he was also accepting his alumni award "for thousands of African journalists, many who paid the supreme sacrifice for our noble profession."

'Go with what you got'

Award winner **Michele Montas-Dominique, '69**, lost her husband Jean when he was gunned down in 2000. The couple operated Radio Haiti-Inter.

CONTINUED on page 2

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The content rankled the military and power elite inside the troubled island nation. A 2002 attack killed Montas-Dominique's bodyguard. In 2003, she fled from Haiti after dodging an assassination attempt. Montas-Dominique is spokeswoman for the president of the U.N. General Assembly.

She told at least 200 people in a full room inside Low Library that Professor John Hohenberg's J-school counsel to "go with what you got" had deeper meaning than merely publishing or broadcasting the best, if sometimes limited, information available. "Go with what you got," she said "was about the passion for the story." This spring "The Agronomist," a documentary about Montas-Dominique's filmmaker and scientist husband, will be released.

Women's struggle continues

Rita Henley Jensen, '77, was honored for her work as founder and editor in chief of Women's e-News, an online news service that produces stories of critical interest to women. Jensen said barrier-breaking strides women have made in journalism are sometimes used to hide gender bias. She said the industry is still far off from achieving gender parity. And, "too often," said Jensen, "we are not encouraged to cover our own stories."

Women's e-News helps fill that void, she said.

Quiet persistence pays off

Award winner Lewis Simons' '64, reporting style is "quiet persistence. He does not come on like gangbusters," said someone who should know, his wife and classmate Carol Seiderman Simons.

Lewis Simons' persistent newsgathering netted him a 1986 Pulitzer Prize for International reporting and a 1985 George Polk award. Early in his career he said New York Times legend James Reston counseled him that good foreign correspondents need "a strong pair of legs" as a reporting skill. Foreign correspondents, said Simons, "must go to the places people are running from [and tell the story]."



Wayne Dawkins
Commentary

Brave new [virtual] world

I'm still marveling at my new job as an editor in a "virtual newsroom." My office is wherever my cellular phone or laptop computer is turned on. Come in and listen.

On a Monday afternoon, I was at Dean & Don's produce market in Virginia getting four bags of mulch for my wife. My cell phone rang at the checkout counter. It was my boss, BlackAmericaWeb.com executive editor DeWayne Wickham, calling from Maryland and excited about a fresh wire story about New England Patriots star Ty Law.

Once I brought the mulch home, I went about updating the story with reporting. I interviewed a former NFL player and now teacher at my daughter's high school. I asked, "How does a normal person tackle a sleek Super Bowl champion defensive back?" His answer: "Close your eyes and hope for the best."

This quote brightened a story about Law, who ran away from Miami Beach Police after a traffic stop, but was caught after a brief foot chase by the officers in uniform.

The next day, a White House correspondent who writes for our site called me while I was in my kitchen to confirm that he filed his story about Ron Noble, the first American and black man to run the international law enforcement agency Interpol.

Continued on next page

Virtual world/Continued

On Thursday, Wickham called, this time from Orlando, Fla. [This *is* a virtual newsroom], while I was in the waiting room at Jiffy Lube. He was checking on our Friday lineup.

An hour later, I sat in a barber's chair when my phone rang twice. It was my New York correspondent, letting me know that two sources from the same agency gave conflicting views regarding a story we were about to run on "gifting," aka "bug chasing," acts in which black men contract HIV/AIDS deliberately in order to gain health and housing benefits. We agreed to run the conflicting viewpoints in the piece.

That story idea grew from a conversation the correspondent and I had while we watched Oprah Winfrey's April 16 broadcast about black men on the "DL" [down low] which means engaging in homosexual relations while living what appears to be a button-down, heterosexual life with wives and girlfriends. We published our own DL story on BlackAmericaWeb.com two days before Oprah's show. When the New York writer as an aside noted this possible "gifting" phenomenon, I urged her to pursue the lead. The lead checked out.

Right now the managing editor's office offers a view on my driveway on a residential street in Newport News, Va. My correspondent team is based in Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Charlotte, Oakland and Sacramento. Four months have passed, yet I have not had face time with the other team editor, based New Jersey. However, we talk and e-mail daily in this virtual environment. What a brave new world.

Jobline

The Journal News of Westchester and Rockland County, N.Y. seeks **free-lance writers** from the New York area who have expertise in either health or home stories. Contact Gayle T. Williams via e-mail at gtwilliam@thejournalnews.com. ... The NewsHour [PBS] seeks a **Desk Assistant (DA)** position is part of a six-month, entry-level program aimed at providing practical experience in a broadcast news setting. DAs are exposed to all aspects involved in producing a nightly television news program. The position is divided into rotations among the different units that compose the NewsHour. DAs also act as support staff for senior producers, associate producers, reporters and production assistants. **Application deadline: May 7.** Six-month position starts July. **6. To apply:** Download an application as either a [Microsoft Word document](#) or a [PDF](#). Or request an application by contacting the NewsHour's desk assistant coordinator either by sending an e-mail to mmelia@newshour.org, or calling 703-998-2150. Or send a letter to: Michael Melia, Desk Assistant Coordinator, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* 3620 S. 27th St., Arlington, VA 22206. ... The Radio and Television News Directors Foundation Broadcast News Management Fellowship program will send 10 journalists of color to selected leadership and **management training** programs for news professionals during 2004. The RTNDF fellowship program will allow senior broadcast news and mid-career professionals of color to develop or strengthen their management skills. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by a supervisor. Each candidate must submit an application form and a letter of recommendation from his or her supervisor. Candidates also are urged to work with the supervisor to determine what skills and training they need to advance. Fellowship winners will attend workshops on such topics as developing management competence, leadership and communication skills. Application and fellowship descriptions are attached. Available Fellowships Include;

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People

On Monday April 5, **Frank L. McCoy, '86**, began as programming director for America Online's News division. "AOL News has four news channels," McCoy said. "The daily editorial teams of the Top News channel and the Business news channel will report to me and I may serve as a liaison to the Entertainment news channel. The latter is in NYC and its news is compiled there." The AOL News teams do not report, write, or editorialize, McCoy told us. They compile news from hundreds of partners and provide it to dial up and broadband members. Monday to Friday, from mid-morning into the early evening, McCoy will oversee and work with the editors of Top News and Business news as they select stories and create "enhanced" stories. That is done by picking audio and video feeds and editing and writing heads and decks for the stories and the channels. The teams also create instant polls, upload newsmaker features, post instant quotes from AOL members, and build out other types of features for the AOL community. Separate teams handle **Top News on the "Welcome" screen and Top News special reports.** "My job," said McCoy, "is to make sure that what AOL News compiles for the Top News and Business channels remains compelling to its members. AOL has about 28 million members and 70 percent of them dip into the news channels on a regular basis. I have written and edited for a variety of web sites since the Internet's Jurassic period of the mid-1990s." . . . **Gayle T. Williams, '86**, is now an assistant features editor with The Journal News in White Plains, N.Y., where she edits a weekly section on Home and Design, a monthly section on health called Mind & Body and a quarterly glossy magazine on Home and Design. . . . **Jovita Moore, '90**, is weekend anchor/reporter at WSB-TV in Atlanta and new VP/Broadcast for the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists. Moore said AABJ is busy gearing up and focusing on NABJ's 30th Anniversary and convention which will be held in Atlanta in August 2005. Other than that, said Moore, her 2-year old daughter, Shelby, keeps her busy. . . . **Donnette Dunbar, '88**, is now entertainment and culture editor at Metro www.metro.luh. . . On May 19, **Wayne Dawkins, '80**, will receive Columbia University's highest alumni honor on Commencement Day, the Alumni Federation Medal, becoming the fifth Journalism graduate to be so honored in as many years, wrote Judith Leynse '62, in the Columbia Journalism Alumni Journal spring edition.

Unity Authors Carousel

The NABJ Authors Showcase that attracted 40 authors and at least seven well-attended panels will be on hiatus until 2005. This summer at the Unity 2004 convention in Washington, an "Authors Carousel" will allow members from the four associations to do readings and book signings during the convention week Aug. 4-8. The deadline for applications is May 15. Contact Unity Authors Carousel, c/o NAHJ, 1000 National Press Bldg., 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20045.

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PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings

Cassandra Burrell, J-'81, AP Journalist, dead at 45

Cassandra Burrell, J-'81, died last Nov. 7 at age 45.

Pearlean Burrell, Cassandra Burrell's mother, sent a note last month from Los Angeles informing the BA Newsletter. The cause of death was related to breast cancer, reported the death certificate from Virginia.

Miss Burrell lived in Fairfax, Va. and was a journalist with the Associated Press.

In the Fray

Keith Rushing, '90, Daily Press [Newport News, Va.] staff writer, is also a contributing writer to the Web site inthe fray.com. ... In the May/June Black Issues Book Review, Lynne Duke '86, is "The Writing Life" feature. Her 2003 book, "Mandela, Mobutu and Me," is now in paperback [Picador]. A decade after the end of South African apartheid and Rwandan genocide the Washington Post correspondent described turning her witness to history into a book. Also, "Mas-tering Deceit," by Wayne Dawkins, '80, is reporting plus a review of Jayson Blair's "Burning Down My Masters' House: My Life at The New York Times."

Visit www.bibookreview.com

... Akua Lezli Hope, '77, let us
(Continued on page two)

Phyl's farewell rich in tributes and musical surprises

By WAYNE DAWKINS
NEW YORK — There were many heartfelt toasts to Phyllis T. Garland at a May 10 dinner party marking her retirement from Columbia University J-school after 31 years. This toast from **Richard Wexler, '76**, seemed to resonate most: "Phyl knew the difference between being tough and being mean. Our papers bled

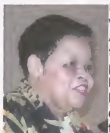


Photo: Chimene Williams

red [ink], but we were never cut." Alumni, many of them successful professionals, laughed because the observation took them back to school days when Garland would ask "what were you thinking?" then follow up with a hearty laugh and thoroughly explain the instructions she had written in red on written assignments.

Alumni came from far and wide to pay tribute to Garland, the only black, tenured full-time J-school professor, who had been teaching there since 1973. Wexler came
(Continued on page two)

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**Wayne
Dawkins**
Commentary

Beatles and Brown v. Board

When the 1966 Beatles tune "Penny Lane" ["Rings in My Ears"] filtered from my car stereo the other day, I time traveled back to the sixth grade.

The syrupy jingle reminded me that during saturation coverage of the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education last month, I indeed was a child of the integration generation. Allow me to testify.

I don't know why, but in September 1965 I did not follow my fifth grade pals whose parents decided to bus them elsewhere in Brooklyn for the sixth grade. I started the next grade at Intermediate School 33 in Bedford Stuyvesant. I.S. 33 was not a nurturing cocoon like Benjamin Banneker Elementary School, where Miss Adams, a black principal, exhibited tough love and race pride, and a number of white teachers expected achievement from little sponges like me.

At I.S. 33, my learning stagnated. My days were filled with fighting off assaults and other distractions.

In an act of love, my mother got me transferred out of that school. I don't know how Iris C. Dawkins did it, but she went to Board of Education headquarters, the intimidating fortress in downtown Brooklyn that routinely crushed activists
(Continued on page three)

Black Alumni Network

Welcome to the Black Alumni Network of Columbia University.

The network was founded in May 1980 by members of that graduating class and since July 1980 the group has published a monthly newsletter. It is received by 400 alumni and friends in the journalism industry. Readers pay for the newsletter through subscriptions, \$20 a year or \$38 for two years.

The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.

Log on to our Web site at <http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/alumni/associations/ban/index.asp> or see our link on the homepage of www.BlackJournalist.com

The Black Alumni Network Newsletter. Published monthly by Columbia University Alumni. (ISSN 1040-7758)

Wayne J. Dawkins – editor
Betty Winston Baye, Angela Chafman, Keith Rushing, E.R. Shipp, Cheryl Duvall – contributing editors

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Columbia J-workshop at Unity '04 in D.C.

The LET'S DO IT BETTER! Workshops on Journalism, Race & Ethnicity will conduct a **one-day seminar**, featuring its best practice award winners, for newsroom managers and educators on Wednesday, **Aug. 4**, before the UNITY Conference in Washington, DC.

Seating will be limited to 25 editors, news directors, and educators. Presentations will feature the journalists who have won awards for bringing voice, authority, complexity and authenticity to their coverage of how race and ethnicity impact American life.

Sponsored by the Ford Foundation, the workshop, now in its sixth year, shows that quality journalism can be achieved through work that punctures stereotypes and stirs fresh discussion. News industry leaders who attend will learn how they can use the honored pieces to improve the cultural competency of their own content and newsrooms.

The workshop, including breakfast and lunch, is free. Application **deadline is June 15, 2004**. Participants will be notified by July 1. E-mail or send the application form, a short bio and a one-page essay on how you would use the program to: Arlene Morgan, director, Columbia University School of Journalism, 2959 Broadway, NYC 10027. E-mail: am494@columbia.edu

People

(Continued from page one)
know last month that two of her sculptures were presented in the Gallery section of Beginner's Guide to Papermaking by Heidi Reimer-Epp and Mary Reimer. Akua Lezli Hope lives in the Southern Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. See her work at www.artfarm.com/papier.html
Donald Scott, '90, has a piece in the May/June Everton's Family

History magazine about a black family with roots to Philadelphia's first mayor, circa 1691.

Garland farewell

(Continued from page one)
up from Washington, D.C. **Gayle Pollard-Terry, '73**, of the Los Angeles Times, hopped a plane after learning of Garland's event only four days before. Pollard-Terry was a student who lobbied Columbia to hire Garland, who was teaching in upstate New York and before that was New York bureau chief for Ebony and Jet magazines.

Other alumni who came out to celebrate Garland included **E.R. Shipp, '79**, **A'Leia Bundles, '76**, **Addie Rimmer, '78**, **Jill Nelson, '80**, **Linda R. Prout, '81**, **Andrea Payne, '81**, **Elise Ward, '79**, and **David J. Dent, '82**.

C. Gerald Fraser, retired New York Timesman and adjunct of Garland for a dozen years, told online members of NABJ that during three decades of service, "Garland performed the customary academic obligations such as serving on faculty committees. A favorite committee assignment was admissions, where she had a say in the admittance of black students to the prestigious institution. ... A primary advocate for all J-school students, Garland manifested special concern for black students."

Dean Nicholas Lemann said the trustees of Columbia University were to vote on the week of May 17-21 to make Garland professor emeritus.

At the dinner party there was good food and ample wine. A female duo playing piano and bass filled the room with the swinging sounds of jazz and blues.

Then there was the surprise: Garland, who wrote about performers, and taught a generation of journalists about covering performing artists, took the microphone and sang a few numbers, including a Leonard Bernstein tune called "I'm So Lucky to Be Me" and a closing tune, "So, Long, It's Been Good to Know Ya."

Beatles and Brown

(Continued from page one)

at moving its immovable bureaucracy. Mom fought for me and prevailed, and I joined my pals on a bus that commuted 45 minutes to predominantly white Bay Ridge to a traditional K-6 school in order to finish sixth grade.

That commute is why "Penny Lane rings in my ears."

The bus driver played the radio during his rugged rush-hour commute along the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and the Beatles tune played often.

I had a good spring. Teachers didn't seem very friendly, but I was learning again. Discipline, or lack of it, wasn't an issue anymore. I moved on to a traditional junior high school again, in predominantly white Bensonhurst for the seventh and eighth grades.

I had anxious moments in the eighth grade because I was touched by one of the flashpoints of the integration generation. In 1968-69, school for one million New York City kids was delayed for a few weeks because of a battle in Brooklyn's Ocean Hill-Brownsville neighborhood between black parents and activists and the predominantly white, Jewish teachers' union. The clash was over blacks' demands for community control of schools and their challenge regarding the paucity of black teachers. The union wanted to protect the system they had in place and went on strike.

Black parents also confronted teachers and administrators about curious things that were done to or withheld from children of color. For example: I was told that my reading comprehension was two years above grade level in junior high, yet I was placed in industrial arts classes rather than foreign language, an academic-track course. Why was that done?

In Ocean Hill-Brownsville, the strike eventually ended and I got back on track to finish and move on to high school.

Eighth grade closed with another Beatles tune blaring from a radio on a school bus en route to a field trip: "Get Back" ["Loretta"], unlike the saccharine "Penny Lane," a hard-driving rock tune.

I went to public schools at a time when the courts were still committed to enforcing Brown v. Board of Education, explained NAACP Legal Defense Fund leader Elaine Jones at a forum. Jones said that commitment ended circa 1974. Also, a think tank study concluded that for all practical purposes, school integration ended in 1988.

I benefited from school integration because I had access to the classes and resources that gave me a chance to compete in this society. We owe the same chances to the students who are moving through public-school systems today.

JOBLINE

The Detroit News is seeking a **deputy business editor** for its award-winning Business section. Applicants should have strong editing and leadership skills and extensive knowledge of business. Applicants should send a cover letter, resume and work samples to: Sue Burzynski, Associate Editor, The Detroit News, 615 West Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail her at sueb@detnews.com

Assistant features

editor/lifestyles: The Chicago Sun-Times is looking for a creative, energetic, positive editor to supervise four reporters and produce lifestyle pages aimed at giving voice to issues and topics that impact women. You'll be in charge of two pages a day, five days a week. Our ideal person would possess three years of reporting experience and at least one year as an assigning editor. Confidence, strong news judgment and editing ability, as well as a sense of fun required. This is a position for someone who can be a change agent.

Send resume, clips and your ideas to: Avis Weathersbee, Deputy Features Editor, Chicago Sun-Times, 401 N. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone (312) 321-2161... The St. Louis Post-Dispatch seeks an **assistant managing editor/projects** who has the leadership ability and journalistic aggressiveness to supervise journalists who prepare our biggest and most ambitious investigative projects. The projects editor is accountable for developing and/or coordinating projects throughout the newsroom, and will work with other supervisors to ensure outstanding project coverage and presentation. This editor will supervise both full-time investigative reporters, other reporters from every area of the news division, coordinate the work of staff members from various craft backgrounds, and work with other editors to ensure the Post-Dispatch fulfills its public service mission. The ideal candidate will be a gifted wordsmith and an excellent line editor who can make stories sparkle. He or she must have excellent news judgment, creative thinking, a collaborative nature, and strong communication and leadership skills. This editor must have a good grasp of research techniques and other elements of investigative journalism. This editor must be able to work well with and direct others, including photo, the copydesk, design, graphics and online, as well as the marketing department and legal counsel. He or she must understand the elements and expectations of good presentation. This editor should be skilled at developing ideas for projects and getting them into the paper in a timely fashion and with high impact. He or she must be able to work collaboratively with six other AMEs, and must have prior supervisory experience and prior experience editing and/or reporting high-impact investigative journalism. To apply, submit six samples of work that demonstrate the qualities cited

above, an overview of your experience and an essay on how you would approach the job to: Cynthia Todd, director of newsroom recruitment, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 900 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101. Application **deadline is June 4.** ... Soros Justice Advocacy, Senior and Media **Fellowships** support outstanding lawyers, advocates, organizers, scholars, journalists and documentarians who will advance the criminal justice priorities of Open Society Institute's U.S. Justice Fund. These priorities include: reducing the nation's over reliance on policies of punishment and incarceration, eliminating race and class disparities in the criminal justice system and restoring judicial discretion, and encouraging the successful resettlement of people returning from prison. The fellowship programs also emphasize the intersection of these priorities with immigrant communities; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities; and women and children. Visit www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/focus_areas/justice_fellows The **deadline** for all three fellowships is Wednesday, **Sept. 22, 2004.** Contact Kate Black, program officer, Justice Fund of the Open Society Institute, 400 W. 59th St., New York, NY 10019. Telephone 212-548-0170; fax 212-548-4666, e-mail KBlack@sorosny.org

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The Board of Directors urges passage of four amendments to NABJ's Constitution in an off-year election. The amendments, among other things, would reduce the Board's size to 14 members. Visit www.nabj.org/chapter_grant.html

\$700 or \$325? Move fast or lose

June 15 is the last opportunity to take advantage of the UNITY 2004 convention pre-registration rate of \$325. After June 15, you must pay the on-site UNITY rate of \$700. Don't miss out on the discount! Renew NABJ memberships and register at www.nabj.org/nabjconvention/04registration.html.

Death of pioneering journalist Jarrett marks end of an era

Vernon Jarrett, 82, an icon of journalism and a tireless advocate for scholastic achievement, died May 23 in Chicago. Admirers said Jarrett's death marked the end of an era and loss of 60 years of institutional memory.

"He was the premier chronicler of the human rights struggle as it relates to African-Americans. Nobody came close," said Charles Thomas, a reporter with WLS-TV [ABC]. "Jarrett interviewed Paul Robeson, Benjamin Mays, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, and he considered himself a friend of many of these people." [read entire story at www.blackamericaweb.com]

Meet the challenge NABJ

The National Association of Black Journalists is just \$15,000 away from meeting the goal of the Challenge Fund for Journalism. NABJ must raise \$50,000 by June 30 in order to secure matching operational funds Tax-deductible contributions will help NABJ continue to provide high-quality professional development programs and empower NABJ to become a self-supporting association. Come on, NABJ members – we can do this! Send in your donation today. https://quickforms.memberclicks.com/apps/110/app_624/application.asp

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Black Alumni Network

www.jrn.columbia.edu

NEWSLETTER | Our 24th Year | July 2004 | Vol. 24 No. 7

UNITY 2004 update: Many saved \$375 because of extension

The pre-registration deadline to register for the Aug. 4-8 Unity Convention was extended to July 1, NABJ Region 3 Director Elliot Lewis told members of the Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals. That meant people had time to register for \$325 instead of \$700, the rate after the deadline. Lewis said as of June 10, Unity had 3,800 people pre-registered for the Washington, D.C. event, and over 1,500, or 40 percent, were NABJ members. In 1999 about 6,800 registered for Unity in Seattle. Five years ago in Seattle, 45 percent of the participants were members or friends of NABJ [Source, "Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream"] The other journalist partners are NAHJ [Hispanic], AAJA [Asian American], NAJA [Native American]. To register, go to www.nabj.org.

J-school breakfast at Unity '04

Planning is under way for the Columbia University J-school Black Alumni Network breakfast at Unity 2004. Come join us Saturday, Aug. 7 from 8 a.m. to 9:30. The gathering is a special time to meet classmates, update Rolodexes and PDAs and also hear from J-school officials.
(Continued on page four)

PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings

CNN White House correspondent **Suzanne Malveaux**, '91, made the cover of Washington Flyer magazine & travel guide. In a winter "Washington Insider" profile, Malveaux answered questions about the current state of TV journalism, pregnant chads and the curious tale of a birthday
Suzanne Malveaux



cake [courtesy of former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton]. Malveaux is a cum laude graduate of Harvard University. Her first on-air job was with New England Cable News and she moved on to NBC, then to CNN. In June, **Paul Mason**, '81, an Emmy-winning 23-year veteran of ABC News, was named senior vice president of ABC News. The promotion makes Mason one of the highest-ranking black executives on the network news scene. He will have day-to-day responsibility for "Nightline," "This Week," "ABC News Radio," "World News Now," "World News This Morning" and "Good Morning

(Continued on page two)



Wayne Dawkins
Commentary

Remembering Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan was afflicted with Alzheimer's; America was stricken with amnesia upon news of the 40th president's June 5 death.

That is this middle-age black man's take on lavish praise heaped on Reagan for a week that assumed for all of the U.S. of A, the 1980s was "Morning in America."

For most blacks, 1981-89 was "Mourning in America."

Let's be clear: Ronald Reagan was a great president. He deftly used acting skill and understanding of the power of television to instill confidence in most citizens when this country was mired in a frustrating malaise.

Reagan acted boldly, and to borrow MTV-speak, he "punk'd" the former Soviet Union. We now live in a post-cold war, post-nuclear doomsday world.

Domestically, economic policies on Reagan's watch slayed double-digit inflation. Mortgage interest rates were about 16 percent at the start of the Reagan years, now they're six percent. That's a powerful testament to the 93-year-old man's legacy.

Yet, despite all of these accomplishments, Reagan was a horrible president for black America. It was obscene for the

(Continued on page three)

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More Phyl praise

"I am so sorry not to have known about Phyl Garland's retirement party [Phyl's farewell rich in tributes and musical surprises, June] said Evelyn C. White, '85, of Oakland, Calif. "Phyl was single-handedly responsible for my absolute best moment at J-school – meeting Leontyne Price in her dressing room after a recital during which Ms. Price rocked the opera house."

People

(Continued from page one)
America's news inserts. Mason, who will report to ABC News President David Westin, also will oversee the network's coverage of this year's political conventions and general election. Mason joined ABC News in 1981 in London, where he was covering race relations as a fellow for the Overseas Press Club. He rose through the ranks, holding every production job, from off-air reporter to executive producer of "World News Tonight" Saturday and Sunday editions and, last season, executive producer of the magazine broadcast "PrimeTime Monday." He filled a position that has been empty since Rick Kaplan was named president of MSNBC in February. [Item from BlackJournalist.com]

... In mid-June, Cheryl Devall, '82, told us she was moving to a new opportunity: "I'll be joining the staff of the Center for the Study of Journalism and Democracy at USC's Annenberg School for Communication. Jay Harris, former publisher of the San Jose Mercury News (and my former boss there) directs the center. I spent three years as a domestic editor at 'Marketplace,' public radio's daily exploration of the world through the prism of money. Sept. 11, 2001 fell three months to the day after I started there, and the events of that day and beyond have shaped a more news-driven, timely and faster-paced show than ever. In addition to coverage of the implications of Sept. 11 on the world's financial capital, I helped direct Marketplace's coverage of the various ways Americans cash in on homeland security and the war on terrorism, the influence of money on the political process and the rash of corporate shenanigans from the Enron of Martha Stewart. I also reported a series reviewing 10 years of economic fallout from the 1992 Los Angeles riots." CSJD Web site: <http://ascweb.usc.edu/asc.php?pageID=351>.

Remembering Reagan

(Continued from page one)

late president's rabid supporters to conveniently forget or behave as if clueless about Reagan's gaping shortcomings.

Many of his triumphs were at the expense of black people, who had no choice but to suffer and be crushed by "Reaganomics." In order to beat down the Soviets, Reagan spent our tax dollars on guns, and less on butter, domestic programs that provided safety nets for the poor and elderly.

Reagan was charming and amiable but his policies and political statements were mean. Please tell me: what possessed this native of Illinois and later governor of California to open his 1980 presidential campaign in Philadelphia, Miss., significant only as the place where white racists murdered three civil rights workers in the 1960s?

Black columnists raised that question a half dozen times during the weeklong Reagan love fest and biographers can't seem to proffer an explanation.

Then there was Ronald Reagan signing the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday into law in 1983, but at that time suggesting that the civil rights icon may have been a communist.

Then there was Reagan who was on the wrong side of history regarding South Africa. He called the apartheid regime America's "good friend and ally." Were millions of African-American citizens consulted? Many of them were engaged in an international cultural boycott of South Africa.

Anyone remember that Stevie Wonder was banned from South Africa, as if it mattered, for saying 'no thanks' to an offer to perform in that then-pariah nation?

Last month, Nelson Mandela was conspicuously absent from the list of world leaders asked to comment about the Reagan legacy. Mandela probably would have died anonymously in prison had Reagan's vision prevailed.

Fortunately, the citizens and Congress overruled the president and changed the course of history.

Too many Reagan fans have selective amnesia about the president. My memories are vivid because he was elected only months after I began my daily newspaper career. As a 25-year-old citizen, the Reagan-Carter-Anderson election was the second I was eligible to participate in. Reagan was a formidable foe. I remember opponents fighting him with all their might. Many times they suffered punishing defeats, occasionally they won battles that saved ideals and even lives.

To forget that reality during a time of reflection on the passing of Ronald Reagan is disrespectful to his legacy.

JOBLINE

The Society of Professional Journalists, the nation's largest and most broad-based journalism organization, seeks an **editor** for Quill magazine. Quill has been a respected and sought-after resource for journalists, industry leaders, students and educators on issues central to journalism for more than 85 years. Talent, energy and positive attitude absolutely required. Responsibilities include developing editorial plan; guiding magazine through all phases of production-design and exporting for the printer; contacting prospective contributors and arranging for the submission of editorial and photographic content; coordinating advertising with the sales representative(s) and, when required, writes or designs advertising; arranging printing of magazine; proofreading galley and page proofs; and developing annual magazine budget and monitoring performance. Candidates must be proficient with computer design software, including Quark Express, Adobe Photoshop and

Adobe Illustrator; must possess layout and design skills; must be proficient with Macintosh. Send résumé, three professional references and work samples to: Terry Harper, executive director, Society of Professional Journalists, 3909 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208 or via E-mail to tharper@spj.org Salary requirements must be included for consideration. ... Talented, aggressive **journalist wanted** for a Minority Fellowship in Urban Journalism at The Chicago Reporter [www.chicagoreporter.com]. The one-year fellowship includes a full-time reporting position and possible training opportunities. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree and at least 3 years reporting experience -- or equivalent writing and reporting skills -- along with a strong interest in urban affairs and investigative reporting. Fluency in Spanish is a plus. The fellowship is supported by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation of Chicago [www.rmtf.org]. Send resume and five clips by **Aug. 15, 2004** to: Alden Louny, senior editor, The Chicago Reporter, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60604. For details, call 312-427-4830 ext. 3861. The Chicago Reporter is a publication of the Chicago Renaissance Renewal Society [www.crs-ucc.org]. ... The San Diego Union-Tribune has these openings: **Metro: Environment reporter**, with at least five years of experience; **investigative reporter**, with at least five years of experience; **reporters** in Vista and Poway/Rancho Bernardo, with at least three years of experience. **Copy/News Desk: Deputy copy desk chief**. **Sports: Copy editor, news assistant**. **Business: Reporter**, business of health care, with at least two years of experience. **Temp reporter**, general assignment, with at least two years of experience. Contact: Carol Goodhue, Training and Development Coordinator, The San Diego Union-Tribune, 350 Camino de la Reina, San Diego,

continued on page 4

Jobline/continues

CA 92108. Telephone 619-293-1261. E-mail: carol.goodhue@uniontrib.com

The Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser has job openings. We are looking for **reporters** to cover education, business and local news. We need at least one **assistant metro editor** (someone with experience directing reporters, line editing and great organizational skills), a **news copy editor**, an **assistant sports editor** (to direct coverage and produce pages) and we may be looking for a photographer in the fall. Experience can range from a couple of years at a daily newspaper (for the reporters) to people with much more experience. Montgomery, the state capital, is a very nice community in a great part of the South. There is a lot of history here, a lot of growth (Hyundai is building a plant in our market, a new AA baseball team). Contact Wanda Lloyd, executive editor, Montgomery Advertiser, 334-261-1509 (fax 334-261-1505). E-mail: wloyd@gannett.com Web site: www.montgomeryadvertiser.com

... Soros Justice Advocacy, Senior and Media **Fellowships** support outstanding lawyers, advocates, organizers, scholars, journalists and documentarians who will advance the criminal justice priorities of Open Society Institute's U.S. Justice Fund. These priorities include: reducing

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Election slated on Constitutional amendments *SPACE*

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J-school breakfast

[Continued from front page]

We will also have an update on our progress in establishing an endowed Black Alumni Network scholarship at Columbia. Right now, two graduates searching for a restaurant in one of the convention hotels that will set aside two dozen seats for the breakfast. RSVP by calling 800-268-4338 or sending e-mail to wdawkins4bj@aol.com.

Meet the challenge NABJ

The National Association of Black Journalists is just \$15,000 away from meeting the goal of the Challenge Fund for Journalism. NABJ must raise \$50,000 by June 30 in order to secure matching operational funds Tax-deductible contributions will help NABJ continue to provide high-quality professional development programs and empower NABJ to become a self-supporting association. Come on, NABJ members -- we can do this! Send in your donation today. https://quickforms.memberclicks.com/apps/110/app_624/application.asp

THANK YOU new and renewing June subscribers from Greensboro, NC, Westampton, NJ, Los Angeles and greater Detroit.

Subscriptions:
\$20 one year
\$38 two years

Black Alumni Network

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Black Alumni Network

NEWSLETTER | Our 24th Year | Aug. 2004 | Vol. 24 No. 8

Unity 2004 Washington, D.C. 'Dean's Breakfast'

Nicholas Lemann
hosts alumni breakfast
at convention

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 5,
7:30 to 9:15 a.m.

WHERE: Renaissance
Washington, D.C. Hotel,
999 Ninth St. NW [two
blocks from convention
center]. 202-898-9000.
RSVP: Call 212-854-8130
or e-mail Betty Wiltshire,
bw11@columbia.edu

NOTE: The time was pushed
up 30 minutes to accommodate
presidential candidate U.S. Sen.
John Kerry's morning address at
Unity. Get to the breakfast early!

BA Network Breakfast is on Saturday

WHERE: Washington
Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas
Circle NW [4½ blocks
from convention center.
202-842-1300

Call 800-268-4338
to RSVP or e-mail
wdawkins4bj@aol.com.

PEOPLE

Alumni comings and goings

From a July 30
BlackAmericaWeb.com column
by **Betty Winston Baye, '80**:
"Following the Urban League
speech, a New York Times article
asserted that 'President Bush
directly confronted his problems
with black voters. . .'. Not true.
President Bush will only be guilty



of directly
confronting black
voters' problems
with his policies
when he finds
the courage to
face his critics,
including the

Congressional Black Caucus, with
whom this president also has
refused to meet since taking
office. Caucus members can
hardly be dismissed as irrelevant,
inauthentic black leadership
since, unlike Bush, they've all
actually been elected."

(Continued on page two)

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**Wayne
Dawkins**
Commentary

Record NABJ growth: Real deal or a mirage?

The National Association of
Black Journalists announced at
the end of July that it hit a new
record for membership, 4,695, a
week before arriving at the third
Unity convention of journalists of
color. Pinch me to make sure I
am not dreaming. Let's be sure
the numbers are not a mirage.

Previously, NABJ membership
peaked in August 1997 at 3,321
members then declined to 2,899
in October 1998, then 2,733 in
1999. From 2000 to 2003 total
membership was well below
3,000 and the association board
struggled to stanch the bleeding
in members and also shore up
association finances.

The July 28 announcement from
NABJ headquarters said July
2002 membership was 2,673
and in July 2003, 2,684
members. This year's numbers
represent a 43-percent increase
in membership. So what caused
this growth spurt and record
membership?

"This is amazing news. I'm still
finding it hard to believe," NABJ
President Herbert Lowe, said

(Continued on page three)

Real deal or mirage?

(Continued from page one)

in the statement. "Certainly, the excitement about UNITY 2004 played a role. But we also believe black journalists are responding to our efforts and priorities – first and foremost, that NABJ is a year-round organization fighting for them every single day." Lowe is a courts reporter with Newsday in New York City.

It was "no accident" said Vice President-Broadcast Barbara Ciara that the numbers increased: "Our president, Executive Director Tangle Newborn and the entire Board of Directors made membership a priority and I'd like to personally thank all of our members for getting behind this and making it happen." Ciara is managing editor/evening anchor at WTKR-TV in Norfolk, Va.

And Vice President-Print Bryan Monroe said the growth spurt reinforces the fact that the association serves an invaluable need for journalists in America. "If there was any doubt about a reason for an organization championing newsroom diversity and black journalists," said the assistant vice president/news for Knight Ridder, "these new numbers dispel those doubts."

Newborn said NABJ created its first-ever membership department last year and charged it with increasing the roster by 10 percent annually over a three-year period.

How solid are these phenomenal member numbers? Lisa Goodnight, communications director at NABJ, broke them down for me: Full members, 2,413; associate member, 856; student members, 1,422, and four corporate members add up to 4,695.

The full membership number is significant. Even at the old peak in 1997, 60 percent of the members, or fewer than 2,000 were full-time journalists. Now,

only 51 percent of the total membership is full-time journalists, yet there are at least 400 more blacks than the former 1997 peak.

The great unknown are the 1,422 students, or 30 percent of total membership that played a big role in the surprise growth. Students have historically been a transient and unstable membership base. Yet a former board member told me that for the last four years students have been NABJ's fastest growing constituency.

Professionals will have to do good, steady job of mentoring and check-ins to student chapters functioning and motivated so their solid numbers don't evaporate. And of course, the professionals must set a good example and hold up their end of the membership growth.

Virtual in Boston

BlackAmericaWeb.com tested its virtual newsroom at the Democratic National Convention in Boston. Two editors, DeWayne Wickham and yours truly, and correspondents Nia Meeks, Tonyaa Weathersbee and Tonya Pendleton produced a dozen stories. They included coverage of a Congressional Black Caucus-sponsored town hall meeting in Roxbury, a piece on black delegates from culturally isolated states like Vermont and North Dakota, and a black perspective on John Kerry's acceptance speech.

Our workspace was a fine piece of real estate; we shared the hall with the Associated Press, USA Today and American Urban Radio. But at first, our Internet connection was not cooperating. To make deadline Monday night, we unplugged at the press pavilion and plugged in at our hotel in Somerville, Mass. By Wednesday our connection was reliable and we plugged in at the press pavilion for the final two nights.

We all had incredible luck keeping our tools. One correspondent dropped her cell phone while she jumped out of a cab to race to an assignment. The cab company recovered the phone.

I apparently had an entourage of guardian angels protecting me: First, my checkbook fell out of my pocket. It was recovered by police at the Fleet Center. Then I realized four days later that I lost my ATM card before I caught my flight from Virginia to Boston. Finally, while leaving the courtesy airport shuttle for my trip home, I left one of two briefcases on board. When I called the hotel and prepared to make arrangements to have the bag shipped to me, the clerk said the driver was doubling back to the airport with the bag. Sure enough, he delivered with a smile. The hosts in Boston made more saves than a Bruins goalie.

I'm eternally grateful.

JOBLINE

Sage Search Partners is working with Columbia University to recruit a new **Chief Administrative Officer** to the School of Journalism. Sage welcomes nominations or suggestions regarding prospective candidates. Visit the Web site: www.jrn.columbia.edu. A member of the senior management team reporting directly to the Dean, the Chief Administrative Officer has overall responsibility for financial and administrative services, including budget development, management and reporting, fiscal operations and auditing, human resources, facilities and technology. The candidate will play an active role in strategic planning, in creating and implementing policies and procedures, and in serving as liaison to the larger campus community. Inquires,

Black Alumni Network

Welcome to the Black Alumni Network of Columbia University.

The network was founded in May 1980 by members of that graduating class and since July 1980 the group has published a monthly newsletter. It is received by 400 alumni and friends in the journalism industry. Readers pay for the newsletter through subscriptions, \$20 a year or \$38 for two years.

The BA Newsletter's mission is to keep people connected. We publish job changes and moves, news about books and films published or produced by alumni, and family milestones. And of course we keep alumni connected to news from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.

Log on to our Web site at <http://www.jm.columbia.edu/alumni/sociations/bar/index.asp> or see our link on the homepage of www.BlackJournalist.com

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BOOK EXERPT

Unity '99 Seattle: Too Great to be ignored

As we arrive in Washington, D.C. for Unity 2004 this month, here is a look back at the previous summit.

By WAYNE DAWKINS

Would Unity '99 live up to its name, or would so many members from the largest of the four partners stay away and severely weaken the convention? NABJ planned for 1,700 of its members to come to Seattle July 7-11, far fewer than the 2,500 or more people who came to the last two conventions. Nevertheless, NABJ attendance exceeded the conservative estimates. In all, 1,960 members registered, exceeding the projection by 260 people. And of those, 200 members registered on site. Because 1,600 people came to the NABJ banquet, again exceeding expectations, an overflow room had to be set up.

Unity – and even NABJ – had become too big. This was a good problem.

In all, about 6,800 journalists and friends of color registered for Unity '99, numbers that surpassed the 6,000 people who came to Unity '94 in Atlanta. For National Public Radio correspondent Cheryl Devall, Unity '99 often meant heading to a panel, workshop, speech or tour and never quite making it because she kept running into old friends and colleagues. Devall's experience could confirm a widespread observation that Unity – and even NABJ – had become too big. This was a good problem. Unity '99 by many accounts had become America's largest gathering of journalists. Although the numbers of people of color were too small in the journalism industry, for one week in Seattle, the combined gathering of journalists of color was too great to be ignored by national and local news media.

(Continued on page four)

People

(Continued from page one)

A'Lelia Bundles, '76, was on NPR June 29 to talk about Madam C.J. Walker with Susan Stanberg. Bundles: Walker's quest was health care first, beauty second. And Bundles great-great grandmother did not invent the hot comb; she operated in a Victorian era that many black folks adapted to.

Fred Johnson, '80, began June 28 as a writer with the 'Bernie Mac' show on Fox. Johnson has written for a number of sitcoms since the late 1980s.

Fred Smith, '81, messaged us recently from Virginia Beach, Va. He explained: "I graduated from the J-School in '81, came out to Oakland, Calif., worked as a part-time sports reporter for two seasons, and free-lanced for awhile. I have done a number of things since: firefighter (in Oakland for 12 years), web designer, and currently commercial real estate appraiser. After living in California for 20 years, I moved to Hampton Roads three years ago."

The first full-length biography of the author of "The Color Purple" – an American icon praised for her art and activism, wrote publisher W.W. Norton, is due next month: "Alice Walker: A Life" by Evelyn C. White, '85. White, wrote Norton, charts Walker's childhood, marked by an incident at age 8 that left her blinded in one eye and disfigured by scar tissue and that prompted her, out of a sense of "ugliness," to probe human suffering through her poems and stories. Author tour stops are San Francisco, New York and Chicago. White author of "Chain Chain Change: For Black Women in Abusive Relationships," and "The Black Women's Health Book." White lives in Oakland, Calif.

nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence to:

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Book Excerpt/Unity

(Continued from page two)

Authentic Unity?

Attendees wondered whether journalists of color spent too much time isolated at the association events or made efforts to mix during Unity week. "people have really segregated themselves into groups and there wasn't a great deal of mingling among the different organizations," observed Monique Nation, a reporter for KRIV-FOX in Houston. "At the convention, I really didn't talk with people from different minority groups," said Radford University student Aqeelah Abdul Ra'uf. "The people of different races that I did see mingling together were already friends or co-workers."

Eunice Eun, a reporter with WPRI in Rhode Island, said the concept of unity went beyond mingling: "Most of us came to the convention to see our friends that we only get to see once a year. I hung out with my black, Hispanic and Asian friends. We all came for the same cause and

purpose." Michelle Dunham of Washington, D.C. added, "You have to make a special effort to mingle with people. You just can't expect Unity to force people to talk to each other. I took it upon myself to talk to other people because I wanted to know what they are doing and what kind of things they are faced with in the industry."

Comparing notes was important because while the general population of Americans of color increased to about 30 percent and continued to rise, journalism industry numbers declined. Minorities in TV journalism were 19 percent in 1999, down from 20 percent in 1998, accord to a Radio and Television News Directors Association/Ball State University study. Minorities in radio journalism were 11 percent, down from 16 percent in 1998. In the newspaper business, minority employment increased to 11.5 percent, according to the 1999 ASNE report, up 1.5 percent from 1998. However, that report noted that minority interns were down 2 percent to 31.3 percent, and first full-time minority hires were also down, 18.7 percent in 1999, compared to 21.5 percent the previous year.

ASNE counted women for the first time in the census and females made up 36.9 percent of newsrooms, and 34 percent of supervisors were women. Sixty three percent of minorities were concentrated at papers of 100,000 circulation or more.

Excerpted from "Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream," August Press, July 2003.

Black Alumni Network

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Newport News, VA 23606

Fund-raising drive in order to establish scholarship program

Twenty Columbia University Journalism alumni attended the Saturday, Aug. 7 Black Alumni Network breakfast at the Unity-Journalists of Color convention in Washington, D.C. Those present resolved to aggressively fund raise in order to establish the BAN scholarship and also to produce an online member directory that could help raise funds for the scholarship.

Marquita Pool-Eckert, '70, and **Angela Chatman, '77**, will work on the scholarship push. According to a September 2003 BAN account an estimated \$15,900 was in or pledged to the fund. A minimum \$25,000 must be raised to begin operating the scholarship.

The BAN scholarship would operate as "bridge funding" to assist J-school students needing money for computers, project-related travel and other contingencies not covered by financial aid.

The scholarship coordinators recommended making an appeal to alumni to renew their gifts to the scholarship fund each year after the summer NABJ or Unity conference.

Wayne Dawkins, '80, **Cheryl Devall, '82** and **Kristina Nwazota, '00** agreed to produce an online Black Alumni Network member directory that would include a timeline of significant alumni and historical moments. The handy directory would be used to solicit proceeds for the scholarship fund.

The 90-minute breakfast at the Washington Plaza Hotel allowed far-flung alumni to reconnect and update contact information. Some had been out of touch with one another for years.

Attending were: **Lawrence Aaron, '70**, N.J.; **Sandra R. Bell, '82**, Ga.; **A'Lelia Bundles, '76**, D.C.; **Sana Butler**, N.Y.; **Chatman**, Ohio; **Cora Daniels, '94**, N.Y.; **Dawkins**, Va.; **Devall**, Calif.; **Wendell Edwards, '97**, Texas; **Olga Joseph, '92**, Md.; **Doxie McCoy, '78**, D.C.; **Nwazota**, Va.; **N.J.**; **Gayle Pollard-Terry, '73**, Calif.; **Angelita Plemmer, '94**, Md.; **Pool-Eckert**, N.J.; **Toni Randolph, '88**, Minn.; **Addie Rimmer, '78**, N.Y.; **Curt Simmons, '91**, N.Y. and **Diane Williams, '98**, N.Y.

MORE COVERAGE: Getting "married" at GSJ [2]; Dawkins commentary [3]

Dean's Breakfast @ Unity'04

'Getting married' at Columbia J-school

About 75 Columbia Journalism Alumni attended a Thursday, Aug. 5 breakfast hosted by Dean Nicholas Lemann and the Graduate School of Journalism. Lemann talked about a lot of change occurring at 116th and Broadway. School began on Monday, Aug. 9, start of a two-year program for most students that until recently began after Labor Day.

A one-year Master of Arts degree program [the existing degree is a Master of Science] is about to take hold. Lemann said science, economics, arts and politics are the four majors and other schools on campus will have deeper relationships with the J-school. "For many years," said the dean, "the university was dating the J-school; now we're going to get married."

Lemann said new initiatives will demand more money. A major capital campaign, he said, must go beyond active alumni and to those with money, but are not in the news business.

Gerald Boyd, former managing editor of The New York Times, is a part-time faculty member and director of case studies. "How do you walk through the intellectual challenge of being a managing editor?" asked Lemann. He explained that Boyd is developing ambitious curriculum data that will take students inside The Washington Post and later the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Newsday and the New Orleans Times-Picayune. Case studies will be teaching tools similar to what is used at West Point and at architecture schools.

There is also an initiative, said Lemann, to make the bimonthly Columbia Journalism Review timelier. Campaigndesk.org, which was intended to offer critique and analysis of the 2004 political campaign, is up in cyberspace, and the plan is to have the site evolve into site to be called cjronline.org.

The dean's event competed with Democratic Presidential candidate John Kerry's address to 4,000 Unity convention attendees. People were urged to get to the Kerry event an hour early at 8:30 a.m. — the start time of the breakfast — in order to pass through security.

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Wayne Dawkins Commentary

Cheers, jeers from Unity-'04

Unity: Journalists of Color 2004 rushed by me like a blur. Why? Was it the volume, 8,100 attendees at this third summit, eclipsing the previous record 6,800 at the second gathering in Seattle?

Was it a blur because for the first time, the leading candidates for U.S. president made our convention required stops three months before the big election? At the last Unity, candidate George W. Bush turned up at the job fair in what some journalists called a "drive-by photo-op." This time, as the incumbent in the White House, he spoke and fielded questions from members.

Did everything move too fast for me because on two of the four days I had to find creative ways to get connected and produce BlackAmericaWeb.com content? One day I was able to work online while helping as a volunteer with the Unity student online project [thanks to editor **Michelle Johnson**, '82, who let me hang out in the newsroom]. The next day, I got my wireless connection to work on my laptop -- finally -- after 10 months of futility.

I missed a lot because events and activities whizzed by so fast. However, I didn't feel cheated. Like a diner at a good buffet, I enjoyed what I had, and understood if I'd tried to take too much, I'd have probably gotten indigestion.

Outstanding Unity moments including watching our members put sharp questions to the presidential candidates. Brett Pulley of *Forbes* magazine and Roland S. Martin, Creators Syndicate columnist, shined. Martin's news-breaking question to George W. Bush -- the son, grandson and father of fellow Yale graduates said he favored eliminating "legacy" admissions at colleges -- showed good preparation and judgment.

A booby prize goes to Michelle Malkin, the syndicated columnist of Asian descent who once again trashed the Unity movement, like she did in '99. She called the assembled a mass of whiners. So it was hilarious to many of us that post-Unity, Malkin complained to conservative news outlets that "Hardball" host Chris Matthews treated her badly. His offense? Matthews confronted Malkin after she suggested that John Kerry shot himself in Vietnam in order to win medals. Second, the host wouldn't let Malkin plug her new book, "In Defense of Internment: The Case for Racial Profiling in World War II and the War on Terrorism."

What conflict?

Unity offered an opportunity for the press to take probing looks at our decade-old movement. In a Washington City Paper piece called "No conflict here" the writers wondered whether heavy corporate sponsorship and branding compromised the thousands of journalists assembled.

In the article, I offered an anecdote from the bad old days of 1982 when a beer and cigarette sponsor placed plastic buckets with bottles of beer and smokes on the NABJ banquet tables in Detroit. While a number of members looked on in horror, their colleagues snatched the freebies like centerpieces after the wedding reception. Association board members quietly convinced the sponsor to underwrite in subtler ways. Two decades later, at this larger joint convention, corporate underwriters used effective, less ham-handed methods to plug their products and services.

Candidate decorum

Another critique from the press was that Unity attendees behaved badly by allegedly applauding lustily for Kerry and receiving Bush coolly and laughing sarcastically during one of his famous tussles with American English: "Tribal sovereignty means that, it's sovereign," was Bush's reply to a question from a Native American journalist. Attendees laughed, sighed and shook their heads, reported the daily Unity News.

Seemed like much ado about nothing to me. I was inside the auditorium with 5,000 who for the most part were remarkably dispassionate and well behaved. For the Kerry speech and Q&A I watched on a large monitor in the convention center lobby. I heard some applause but it was minimal. Besides, NABJ Vice President/Print Bryan Monroe asked in a rebuttal to critics whether Newspaper Association of America executives or Radio-TV News Directors of America members are criticized for applauding politicians who are their guest speakers. Unity organizers should probably take this page out of the National Press Club playbook: State a disclaimer that applause may come from guests of the journalists.

Alum's book on Brown v. Board of Ed figure

Woody Klein, J-'52, is author of "Toward Humanity and Justice: The Writings of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, Scholar of the Brown v. Board of Education Decision," published by Praeger on this 50th anniversary of the landmark case. "This was not and will not be a bestseller," Klein told us, "but it got a lot of attention in academia because nobody had done a book on or about him ever.

"I have known Kenneth Clark since 1964, when we became friends. I wrote about him during the civil rights revolution in the '60s, covering civil rights for the New York World-Telegram & Sun. While other leaders who I interviewed – Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young, James Farmer, John Lewis, Roy Wilkins, and Malcolm X were more prominent and widely recognized as public figures, Kenneth's behind-the-scenes role was equally vital. Each of these men with vastly different views consulted with him frequently." Klein said that Clark, who turned 90 on July 24, was pleased when he saw the final product, as was his daughter, Kate Clark Harris, who lives in Switzerland with her husband Donald, a corporate executive.

"Toward Humanity and Justice" had a run of a few thousand copies. It is marketed mostly to colleges and universities with Black Studies and Afro-American studies departments, said Klein, and also to public libraries. Klein had an initial Barnes & Noble opening in Westport, Conn. where he lives. He lectured on the May 17, 1954 decision on May 17 this year at the Westport Public Library. A few hundred people turned out, said Klein, including some who came up afterwards and explained they were once students of Clark at City College years ago. "They told some wonderful stories about how inspiring a teacher he was."

Wamba memorial fund

Honors '94 Alum, scholar-author; supports research, training in Africa

A memorial fund has been established in honor of the legacy of Philippe E. Wamba '94. Una Okonkwo Osili, an economics professor at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis told us The Wamba Memorial Fund will support field research, training, and advocacy work for road safety in sub-Saharan Africa. Wamba, 31, was killed September 2002 in a car crash in Kenya while he was conducting research for a book on African youth. Wamba obtained a master's degree at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and graduated from Harvard College magna cum laude in 1993 with an AB degree in History and Literature. Wamba published his first book in 1999, a memoir and historical text, entitled "Kinship: A Family's Journey in Africa and America" and served as the founding editor-in-chief at Africana.com from 1999 to 2002. For more information or to make a financial contribution to the Wamba Memorial Fund, visit: www.HASANweb.org/memorial.asp

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Black Alumni

Network Newsletter /Our 24th year/October 2004/ Vol. 24, No. 10

New Columbia University J-school class: By the numbers

Total Class: 211 students
Gender: 61 percent female
Blacks: 6 percent
Total
Minorities: 29 percent [Hispanic, 6 percent; Asian, 8 percent;
4 percent South Asian; 5 percent Middle Eastern].

NOTES: Middle Eastern student population reflects a 400-percent increase.

This year's class includes two Iraqis, a Sunni and a Kurd.

Asked one Iraqi student about the other, "Do I have to room with him?"

[Numbers reported by Robert McDonald at the Dean's breakfast at Unity-Journalists of Color 2004 in August.]

Alumna co-authors career guide

Sheryl Huggins, '91 is co-editor of "The Nia Guide for Black Women: Achieving Career Success on Your Terms," a book scheduled for Oct. 22 release.

Huggins, editor-in-chief of NiaOnline, said in a statement that it is the first of a series of self-improvement books developed for the unique interests and concerns of black women. Nia means "purpose" in Swahilli and the guide is a practical primer to pursuing workplace success, developing leadership skills, climbing the corporate ladder, and achieving career empowerment for working women.

Huggins co-edited the book with Cheryl Mayberry McKissack, founder, president and CEO of Nia Enterprises, LLC and NiaOnline, a Chicago-based online community and research marketing service.

Huggins' e-mail address is shuggins@niaenterprises.com or call 917-674-7964.

NABJ Awards Gala

Saturday, October 9. www.nabj.org

Inside:

Jobline, People, page 3



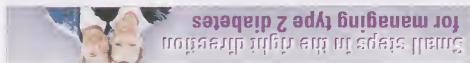
Wayne Dawkins Commentary

3 Warriors: Peterman, Morris and Palmer

Within weeks three elder black journalists died: Peggy Peterman [Aug. 19], Carl Morris [Aug. 27], and Lu Palmer [Sept. 12]. Each of them shared the warrior gene; they battled, often successfully, to get an authentic black voice, not a stifled one, into mainstream media. Peterman, Morris and Palmer deserve to be honored as legends who should inspire us.



Peterman, 67, of the St. Petersburg Times in Florida, was the 1989 NABJ Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Peterman joined the newspaper in 1965 and by 1967





convicted the editors to do away with the Negro news page and integrate the daily pages. After many years of reporting, she became a columnist and joined the editorial board in 1994.

<http://view.atdmt.com/DW/O/view/tchmd87600100016dwo/direct/01&28147187827c7clicK=...>

I write every column as if it were my last," Peterman once said during a William Monroe Trotter Group columnists retreat in the mid-'90s. That advice stayed with me. She retired from the newspaper after 31 years of service. As the daughter of a civil rights activist, Peterman was bound to have fire in her belly, said a Times editorial, but she "was also a gentle woman of the South who laughed and hugged easily."



Morris, 73, was the second full-time executive director of NABJ [1987-90] and he was the steady administrative hand behind the association's growth in the late 1980s through early 1990s. Morris was a finalist for the executive director's post during the Dallas convention in 1986. In April 1987 Morris succeeded the late Dennis Schatzman, who resigned. Morris managed the first permanent NABJ headquarters that opened the previous fall and faced a sharp learning curve.

"Carl Morris provided experienced leadership and organizational skills to the day-to-day management at a crucial period in our organization's development," said former President Tom Morgan. Morris went on to co-found the National Association of Minority Media Executives, which organized top news executives of color into a lobbying force. He edited the Morris Memo newsletter which had an impatient, just-do-it tone regarding achieving racial diversity in the media.

Palmer, 82, was a columnist for the former Chicago Daily News in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He famously quit because he refused to be edited, not for punctuation, but for voice, an angry, confrontational black voice. He took that fire back to the black media where he began. Palmer's three times weekly radio commentaries, observers told me, was responsible for the 1983 election of Chicago's first black mayor, Harold Washington.

"It's enough to make a Negro turn black," was the signature phrase from Palmer's commentaries.

In Palmer's hometown, Newport News, Va., he was known not as "Lu," but Lutrelle, or "Junior" because of his revered dad, Lutrelle F. Palmer Sr., principal of one of the former all-black high schools in town. Junior's dad was fired for demanding equal pay for black teachers in the 1940s so there was no surprise where the son got his fighting spirit.

Hermene Hartman of N'Digo magazine told me that Chicago lost a lifetime of institutional memory because of the deaths within four months of Palmer and his colleague Vernon Jarrett, 85.



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type 2 diabetes management

Peterman, Morris and Palmer fought good fights for decades, spurred social and political change and created opportunity for many journalists. Now that they have departed how will we honor all that they did?

People

Barbara Gutierrez, '80, of Coral Gables, Fla., dropped us a line at the end of August: "I took a buy-out from the Herald three years ago. At about the same time I became a mom, adopting a newborn girl named Katya. Katya is of Mexican and Afro-American heritage and she is a cutie. Very smart and energetic. She has changed my life completely, as only children can. I've been doing free-lance work in public relations and media training here locally using contacts to work with Spanish-language television. So life is different, but quite fulfilling." Gutierrez's e-mail address is gestela44@aol.com. ... **Linda Wright Moore**, '73, is director of communications with the Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth. For 21 years the organization has strived to advocate thoughtfully for youth, information at pccy.org ... **Ron Claiborne**, '74, who by the way is Moore's cousin, was spotted at Unity '04. He is a Boston area correspondent with ABC News ... **Keith Rushing**, '90, did a front-page article for the Sept. 24 Daily Press of Newport News, Va. about the divisive debate over a week of cartoon panels by "Boondocks" creator Aaron McGruder. Hampton University students and middle-age black professionals debated the appropriateness of McGruder parodying a fictional "Reality" TV show called "Can a N*** get a job?" The week of panels Sept. 20-25 caused many newspaper editors to consider whether to kill the strip because of the inflammatory language.

Jobline

Red Herring, a business/technology magazine, seeks: **Managing Editor**: an experienced editor with knowledge of magazine production; primary role is to keep the magazine on schedule. This person should have strong organization skills. He/she sets deadlines for stories, for edits and oversees copyediting; interacts with art and photo editors and with pre-press house and printer to keep a high standard of editorial and production quality. **Senior Editor**: an editor with 5-10 years experience in magazines or on features desk of a newspaper to work closely with a talented but inexperienced staff. Should have strong story-editing and feature-editing skills. Prefer individual with some knowledge of business journalism and familiarity with major technology players. **Reporters**: Looking for two reporters with 2-5 years experience and some track record of covering business and/or technology stories. Will consider those without such experience but with evidence of a good sense of news and the ability to break stories. E-mail clips and resumes to jdreyfuss@redherring.com. You can also post to this address: Joel Dreyfuss | Editor-in-chief | Red Herring, 1931 Old Middlefield Way, Suite Z, Mountain View, CA 94043. jdreyfuss@redherring.com WTVD-TV, the ABC-Owned station in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., seeks: **Consumer reporter** in our Troubleshooter unit. The ideal candidate has at least three years experience solving consumer complaints. Immediate opening. Send resumes and non-returnable tapes to: Rob Elmore, News Director, WTVD ABC 11, 411 Liberty St., Durham, NC 27701. **Web site producer** to integrate new and original content into the abc11tv.com as well as repurpose existing news content to the site. This includes text, video, and multimedia content. The candidate will possess a strong writing background, including writing for news. Working under a tight deadline and good interpersonal skills is a must. The candidate should be able to accommodate an afternoon/evening shift and/or weekends. Strong spelling and grammar skills are essential. Experience with Paint Shop Pro or Adobe PhotoShop, Macromedia FLASH, HTML, CSS is a definite plus. Degree in Journalism, English and/or Communications. Send resume to: Tanya Isley, director of Web operations. **Reporter**. At least three years experience is required. Candidates must demonstrate the ability to showcase stories in an active style. Immediate opening. Send resumes and nonreturnable tapes to: Rob Elmore, news director ... The Montgomery Advertiser has opportunities for experienced daily newspaper journalists. **Assistant Metro Editor**: Looking for line editors with at least two years of metro or city desk experience or reporters who are being groomed for editing with at least eight years of daily newspaper experience. The skills needed are ability to work well with reporters and other editors, attention to detail, good organizer, ability to drive enterprise with beat reporters and schedule flexibility. **Courts Reporter**: Looking for a reporter who has daily newspaper experience and a strong interest in covering courts and other legal matters in the tri-county region of Central Alabama. Candidates should have ability to develop enterprise ideas and stories and be flexible for other assignments besides courts. **Education Reporter** This position will cover private schools K-12 as well as higher education in the tri-county region of Central Alabama. Contact: Wanda Lloyd, executive editor, Montgomery Advertiser,

wlloyd@gannett.com or 334 261-1509 ... The School of Communication at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication seeks an assistant professor specializing in issues of race/ethnicity and communication with an emphasis on issues of social change. In exceptionally strong cases an appointment at the associate level can be considered. The School of Communication emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches to communication and encourages candidates from a broad range of specializations and methodological approaches. Preference will be given to candidates who have a demonstrated record of using their professional and/or academic work to make a significant contribution to society. Applicants should send a CV, three letters of recommendation, and samples of their work to Race/Ethnicity and Communication Search, Dr. Abigail Kaun, Associate Director, School of Communication, Annenberg School for Communication, 3502 Watt Way, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0281, kaun@usc.edu, (213) 740-0934. Inquiries can also be made to the Search Committee Chair: Prof. Marita Sturken, sturken@usc.edu, (213) 740-3950. Review of applications will begin on Oct. 15 and continue until the position is filled ... The Cincinnati Enquirer has an immediate opening for an Assistant Features Editor/Lifestyle to help reinvent daily lifestyle coverage and to lead the lifestyle staff in new directions. Launching new Sunday features sections now and will be revamping the daily lifestyle section soon. Topics of coverage for this editor include personal health, fitness, nutrition, family, parenting, relationships and human interest/profiles. Seeking someone with a fresh outlook, unlimited imagination, a highly developed sense of fun, and of course, strong line editing and management skills. You should be creative yet organized and have a strong visual sense. You must think across platforms, because planning online content is an integral part of this job. Candidates should have at least six years of newspaper, magazine or communications experience, including management and editing responsibilities, experience working with freelancers and a proven ability to meet both daily and long-range deadlines. Send a cover letter, resume and URLs and a list of 7 "can't miss/must do fall in SW Ohio" story ideas to Sara Pearce, Assistant Managing Editor/Features, spearce@enquirer.com. Deadline for applications: Friday, Oct. 8. We will fill this opening fast. Sara Pearce, Assistant Managing Editor/Features, Cincinnati Enquirer, 312 Elm St., Cincinnati OH 45202. 513.768.8478. spearce@enquirer.com

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More Africa coverage please, urges NABJ award winner

During an upbeat celebration that honored 41 NABJ "Salute to Excellence" award winners, Lifetime Achievement winner Clarence Page was not satisfied. "We must do more," the syndicated columnist with the Chicago Tribune told about 300 people in Washington, D.C. Oct. 9.

He wondered why in that city only three black journalists, he, Juan Williams and Michele Martin, are the only faces on the influential Sunday network news talk shows.

And he echoed the plea of award winner Charlayne Hunter-Gault, who urged the crowd to agitate



for more and more thoughtful Africa coverage. "I come back here and intelligent people ask me, 'are there skyscrapers in Africa?'" She said few of her stories appear on U.S. television, and general coverage of the continent focuses on "the exotic and the bizarre, and all the things we used to [report] about African-Americans."

Page also said journalists must demand more international coverage and support colleagues abroad. Colombia, South America leads the world in killing journalists, and China leads the world in jailing them, said Page, who with Hunter-Gault serves on the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Hunter-Gault's winning entry was "Inside Zimbabwe" in the Television International Network and top 15 Market category.

Page, a journalist for more than three decades, has been a columnist for the last 20 years and he is syndicated in 150 newspapers. Page is a 1989 Pulitzer Prize winner. He was also drafted into the military during the Vietnam War and noted that in 1969 "I served proudly, guarding this country's western flank from the press office at the 212th Artillery Group, Fort Lewis, Washington."

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Fall Alumni Meeting

"Pamphleteering in the Digital Age"
Tuesday, Nov. 16, Columbia GSJ
RSVP Cv21114@columbia.edu

Inside:

Commentary, page 2
Jobline,
People, page 3



Wayne Dawkins Commentary

Media mischief just before the election

We are just a few days away from a cliffhanger of a presidential election on Nov. 2 between Democrat challenger Sen. John Kerry and Republican incumbent George W. Bush. There have been several remarkable incidents of media heavy-handedness and bias.

Exhibit "A" is Sinclair Broadcast Group. About two weeks before the election, the media company announced that on Oct. 21 it was airing an anti-Kerry documentary titled "Stolen Honor: Wounds that Never Heal." The management of the broadcast group labeled the program "news." Calling it news was as credible as calling Michael Moore's hit anti-Bush film "Fahrenheit 9/11" news then airing it on network TV just before the election.

Calling "Stolen Honor" news was as credible as calling "Fahrenheit 9/11" news then airing it on network TV

Critics, ranging from op-ed columnists to a former FCC commissioner who called the plan an abuse of the airwaves, cried foul for days. Yet it looked like conservative-leaning Sinclair, with 62 local stations in 39 markets, would stick to its plan. Sinclair was the same company that in April pre-empted an ABC News "Nightline" broadcast because it deemed as inappropriate a tribute to fallen U.S. soldiers in the Iraq war.

Then a few days before the scheduled "Stolen Honor" broadcast, Sinclair executives changed their minds and withdrew the anti-Kerry documentary from most of its markets, according to varied news reports.

There was a casualty just before the change: Sinclair fired its Washington bureau chief, Jon Leiberman, after he publicly complained that the scheduled Sinclair broadcast would compromise the company's credibility. "Biased political propaganda, with clear intentions to sway the election," was what the journalist told the Baltimore Sun. Sinclair management dismissed Leiberman as a disgruntled employee who violated company policy by revealing business plans to the press.

Leiberman took one for the team – the journalism fraternity – and appeared to have a hand in minimizing abuse of the airwaves.

Exhibit "B" is abuse or carelessness or some of both by Fox News. It acknowledged that after the second Kerry-Bush debate, reporter Carl Cameron wrote a script with fake quotes from Kerry that accidentally was put on the air.

One of the fake Kerry quotes was "I'm a metrosexual – he's [Bush] a cowboy."

Fox retracted the fake Kerry report. On Oct. 1, a network spokesman told The Associated Press that Cameron was reprimanded for his "lapse in judgment" and "poor attempt at humor."

In September, a "CBS 60 Minutes II" report that scrutinized Bush's military service record was lambasted by conservative critics because a source later admitted he provided altered documents to CBS. Dan Rather ate heaping plates of crow for that embarrassment and heard calls for his dismissal. Yet CBS did admit that its fact checking was breached and struggled to repair the damage. In the case of "fair and balanced" Fox News, the silence from conservative critics of the press was deafening. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Media mischief/Continued

And Exhibit "C": Syndicated columnist Paul Greenberg wrote the week of Oct. 18-22 that he had "proof" of liberal media bias. His exhibit was an internal memo from an executive at ABC News that said, yes both the Kerry and Bush camps distort facts during the campaign, but the news staff should take an especially hard line against Bush operatives.

Where Greenberg saw liberal bias, I saw clear-headed thinking because I recalled the September/October Columbia Journalism Review editorial, "The Boys on the Broken Bus." The editorial warned, "In the modern campaign bubble, where technological 'advances' have reporters on what amounts to a never-ending torrent of digital spin, it's often debatable who is actually framing the stories — the journalist or the campaigns.

"The poor reporter out on the trail, under orders to break news and remain 'objective' usually doesn't have time to reflect, or even to really report in a way that gets beyond the spin. The spinners know this and exploit it."

The end of that editorial was how I interpreted the message in that ABC memo, which was don't get "played," political reporters. That's good advice for a Kerry-Bush election that now reports a dead heat and only a few days left for either camp to make mischief.

News organizations should try their best to cover the candidates fairly and avoid overt or covert acts that make them the big story on Nov. 2.

People

Betty Baye, '80, wrote in her Oct. 14 Louisville Courier-Journal column that "still in black America, the measure or whether you arrived is getting yourself onto the cover of Jet" magazine. And the 5-by-7-inch weekly is a lifesaver, said comedian-turned-social activist Dick Gregory. He was riding in a bus in Uganda during its civil war and soldiers ordered everyone off at gunpoint. Then quickly the soldiers put their guns away and apologized. Gregory asked a sergeant, "how did he know me?" The soldier answered "Jet magazine. Jet magazine" Read Baye's column at www.courier-journal.com/cjextra/editorials/2004/10/14/opin-baye1014-7075.html.

Congratulations to Lisa Cox, '92, 1st Place NABJ award winner for "Beneath the Rubble: Birmingham Voices, Then and Now," which documented the 40th anniversary of the bombing of the 16th St. Baptist Church that killed four little girls in 1963. Cox, executive producer with WVTM-TV NBC 13 won in the Market Size 16 & Below Documentary category and was recognized at the Oct. 9 gala in Washington, D.C.

Deborah Creighton, '97, of wsj.com [Wall Street Journal Online] moves this month from night editing to the dayside news desk as a news writer. Creighton joined wsj.com in December 1999 as an editor in the international group, said the staff announcement, and more recently was lead evening editor for the Technology section.

Jobline

In Florida, Bay News 9's award-winning Web site seeks a news writer for its new media team, preferably one with a background in print/on-line journalism. Candidate must have strong news writing skills with webcasting abilities, news experience, a journalism degree, and the ability to work well with others as well as independently. Shifts could include early mornings, evenings and weekends. Visit the JOBS page on www.baynews9.com (file://www.baynews9.com/) for details on how to apply for the Web News writer position. Other openings: Associate producer; Art director; and Production assistant. ... The Montgomery Advertiser seeks a metro editor to run a desk of four assistant editors and 12 reporters (including one suburban bureau). Candidates should have strong daily newspaper experience, especially

Jobline/Continued

line editing, working with reporters on daily coverage as well as enterprise reporting. Experience working on projects is also a plus in this position. Montgomery is the capital city in Alabama. Even though we're a small newspaper (51,000 daily, 64,000 Sunday) you'd be surprised at how competitive we can be with salary. Contact Wanda Lloyd, executive editor, Montgomery Advertiser, 334 261-1509.

wlyoyd@gannett.com. www.montgomeryadvertiser.com. ... The Miami Herald seeks an Arts & Entertainment editor to direct coverage of its Sunday section and oversee its critics and GA arts writers. The right candidate's passions are eclectic, from Mase to Molotov, from Shostakovich to Scharf. South Florida has played host to the MTV Video Music Awards, the Latin Grammy Awards and Art Basel Miami Beach. And when we're not busy throwing the party, the visual arts scene is thriving, the Latin music industry calls us home and hundreds of theater groups, bands, cultural organizations and galleries provide diversions for the locals. Qualified candidates have a minimum of five years of experience editing arts & entertainment, broad knowledge of dance, pop music, Latin music, classical music, visual arts, architecture and opera, and the ability to understand a multicultural A&E scene and relate it in a compelling manner to readers. Send resumes and clips to Shelley Acoca, Features Editor/Arts and Style, The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132-1693.

NABJ Gala/Continued

Hail to the chief

President Herb Lowe said that the gala marked a critical effort by the board of directors to have the National Association of Black Journalists be a year-round organization. In this case the gala was a signature event separated from the annual summer convention to showcase great journalism and use the opportunity to raise revenue. NABJ received more than 300 print, broadcast and new media entries. Lowe also noted that NABJ was featured in the October Ebony magazine.

Telling our story in '05

Mira (Thomas) Lowe, '88, urged members to send e-mail to Nabj30@nabj.org and participate in the "Telling our Story" for the 30th anniversary celebration of NABJ in 2005.

'Fun Facts' and an Incentive

A dozen "NABJ Fun Facts" by Wayne Dawkins, '80, were part of a video shown at the awards gala. The historical nuggets were mined from his books, "Black Journalists: The NABJ Story," and "Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream." Want a copy of the "Fun Facts"? Send e-mail to wdawkins4bi@aol.com. And Columbia Journalism alumni, do you want to boost our scholarship fund-raising effort? Here's an offer: This fall, \$4 from each purchase of "Rugged Waters" [\$16] or "The NABJ Story" [\$14] will be donated to the fund by August Press [www.augustpress.net].

THANK YOU, new and renewing October subscribers from Detroit.

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Network Newsletter / Our 24th year/December 2004/ Vol. 24, No. 12

Holiday shopping: Books by J-alumni

Looking for a satisfying gift for a friend or colleague or new titles for your reading list? Here are some suggestions. Topics range from biography, to careers, fiction, horror, children's stories and cookbooks. Enjoy.

"Alice Walker: A Life," **Evelyn C. White, '85** [W.W. Norton, September 2004, \$29.95]. White devoted a decade to craft a biography of a leading feminist voice of the 20th century. Walker, author of "The Color Purple," this year published her seventh novel, "Now is the Time to Open Your Heart."



"Black Power, Inc." **Cora Daniels, '94** [John Wiley & Sons, Inc., \$24.95] Young black professionals have attained the sort of education, connections and experience that those before them could only have imagined. As they rise in the ranks of the corporate elite, and enter circles of power previously closed to them, they are changing the way corporate America relates to black America – and vice versa, the author writes.

"Toward Humanity and Justice: The Writings of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, Scholar of the Brown v. Board of Education Decision," **Woody Klein, '52** [Praeger, \$79.95] Published on the 50th anniversary of the landmark court decision.



"Spirit of Harlem: Portrait of America's Most Exciting Neighborhood," **Craig Marberry, '85**, and Michael Cunningham [Doubleday, December 2003, \$27.50]. Marberry writes the words to introduce readers to famous and beloved residents like the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, literary agent Marie Brown, Olympic fencer Akhnaten Spencer-El, and Isabel Powell, first wife of the late Congressman Adam Clayton Powell. Cunningham provides the

images. The duo co-authored "Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats."

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Alumni receptions

With Dean Nicholas Lemann; Dec. 2,
Washington, D.C., March 16, Philadelphia.
RSVP ics9@columbia.edu

Inside:

Commentary, page 2
Jobline,
Scholarship gift deal, page 3



Wayne Dawkins Commentary

Trotter columnists face recognition and the march of age

Thirty one black columnists participated in the 12th anniversary meeting of the William Monroe Trotter Group in Cambridge, Mass. Nov. 7-10. The group churned out a lot of copy from the sessions that involved post-election analysis and presentations on health, wealth and education. Read the articles at www.trottergroup.com/meeting2004.htm.

C-SPAN broadcast a Tuesday evening public forum from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

And John Kenneth Galbraith visited the Trotters. The economist is 97 years old now. He's written 48 books and he is the subject of a forthcoming biography by Richard Parker.

Trotter was accused of "superabundant untactful belligerency, which ranks among the finest commendations an journalist ever received."

Tributes to four Trotters who have died reminded those present that time is marching on. Vernon Jarrett and Peggy Peterman died this year. Gregory Freeman passed on in 2002 and Lisa Baird in 2001.

At our business meeting we also shared news on Trotters who are retired, or ill. Loretta Green of the San Jose Mercury News retired. Norman Lockman of the Wilmington, Del. News Journal, has Lou Gehrig's disease. Lockman produced our first two Trotter Journals. Larry Whiteside, a Boston Globe sportswriter, has suffered several strokes, reported Derrick Jackson, also of the Globe. Whiteside was founder of the "blacklist," 14 black sportswriters who years ago were determined to grow their numbers.

Trotter, classmate of W.E.B. DuBois and editor of the Guardian newspaper of Boston, is a patron saint of modern opinion journalism, wrote participant Errol Louis in the New York Daily News.

"Exactly 90 years ago today," Louis wrote on Nov. 11, "Trotter achieved immortality at a raucous meeting with President Woodrow Wilson. Trotter had backed Wilson's election but was dismayed by the president's support for racial segregation. 'Segregation is not humiliating, but a benefit,' Wilson said. 'Your manner offends me.'

"At which point, Trotter did what any good newsman should: He got in the president's face. A heated 45-minute exchange ensued that ended with Trotter being thrown out of the White House.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Trotter group/Continued

"The encounter was reported on the front page of The New York Times. Trotter was accused of 'superabundant untactful belligerency,' which ranks among the finest commendations a journalist ever received."

In that spirit five Trotter panelists defined themselves during the televised forum at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. An audience member said he was disappointed that during their critique of the presidential election there was no GOP representation among columnists. Rochelle Riley of the Detroit Free Press answered that "This is not a panel of Democrats and Republicans; it is a panel of liberal and moderate columnists."

And DeWayne Wickham of USA Today/Gannett News Service said the group does not cheerlead for any party. In 1992 when the three leading Trotter founders, himself, Derrick Jackson and Les Payne of Newsday, flew in a 10-seater plane to witness living conditions of Haitian refugees, Wickham said "We went not to embrace [Democrat Bill] Clinton but to beat up on him." The trio of writers reported that the so-call refugee camps actually were prison camps. Clinton, then a candidate for president, promised that once elected, he would make reforms. Clinton won and changed the policy.

Telling our 30th anniversary story in '05

Mira [Thomas] Lowe, '88, urges members to send e-mail to Nabj30@nabj.org and participate in the "Telling our Story" initiative for the 30th anniversary celebration of NABJ in 2005.

'Fun Facts' and an incentive: Book buys fuel scholarship gifts

A dozen "NABJ Fun Facts" by Wayne Dawkins, '80, were part of a video shown at the awards gala. The historical nuggets were mined from his books, "Black Journalists: The NABJ Story," and "Rugged Waters: Black Journalists Swim the Mainstream." Want a copy of the "Fun Facts"? Send e-mail to wdawkins4bj@aol.com. And Columbia Journalism alumni, do you want to boost our scholarship fund-raising effort? Here's an offer: This fall, \$4 from each purchase of "Rugged Waters" [\$16] or "The NABJ Story" [\$14] will be donated to the fund by August Press [www.augustpress.net].

Jobline

The Bucks County Courier Times seeks a copy editor to join the 14-member universal desk. The night desk handles copy for all sections of our daily paper. The ideal candidate is a team player who can work under tight deadlines, write strong headlines and informative cutlines and edit a variety of copy all while maintaining the accuracy our readers have come to expect. Night, weekend and holiday work are a part of the job. Two years of experience on a daily copy desk preferred. Applicants should be experienced with Microsoft Word and Quark. Contact Executive Editor Pat Walker at 215-949-3279 or pwalker@phillyburbs.com. The Philadelphia Tribune, the nation's oldest, continuously publishing, African-American newspaper, is looking for full-time reporters and copy editors. Send resumes to Irv Randolph, Managing Editor, The Philadelphia Tribune, 520 S. 16th St., 19146. Or send e-mail to editorial@phila-tribune.com.

Books by alumni/Continued

"The Nia Career Guide for Black Women: Achieving Career Success on Your Own Terms," **Sheryl Huggins, '91**, co-author with Cheryl Mayberry McKissack [Agate, October 2004, \$12.95]. First in a series of self-improvement books developed for the unique interests and concerns of black women.



"Havoc After Dark: Tales of Terror," **Robert Fleming, '81** [Dafina Books, March 2004, \$14]. This collection draws heavily on mythology and stereotypes about people of African descent, whether it is the story from the perspective of a man hunted and caught by a lynch mob to a black World War II soldier's encounter with death camp survivors.

"Shifting Through Neutral," **Bridgett M. Davis, '86** [Amistad/HarperCollins, May 2004, \$23.95]. Davis deconstructs the daddy's girl myth from a fresh black perspective, writes Publisher's Weekly, in a novel set in Detroit from 1967-1980. Davis uses driving as a metaphor, complete with driving manual excerpts at the start of each chapter.



"Willimena Rules! Rule Book #2: How to Fish for Trouble," **Valerie Wilson Wesley, '82**, [Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, April 2004, \$3.99]. For elementary school-age readers. Wesley is well known for her Tamara Hayle mysteries. [Illustration is of book #1: "How to Lose Your Class Pet."]

"Combread Nation 2: The United States of Barbecue," edited by **Lolis Eric Elie, '86**, [University of North Carolina Press, Oct. 2004, \$17.95]. Elie, a food writer and founding member of the Southern Foodways Alliance assembled a wide range of writers and essays for a serious look at the traditions of barbecue.

Compiled by Wayne Dawkins. Research source, Black Issues Book Review.

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